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BILLS IN TORONTO
BUFFALO BEATS WASHINGTON REDSKINS {page 35}

REIGN ENDING?
AVRIL'S LATEST ALBUM FAILS TO CREATE BUZZ {page 24}

TORONTO metro®

Monday, October 31, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Halloween. Show time

▶ Witches, from left, Maeve McSweeney, 6, Joy Gagnon, 8, Janice Downey, Avery Smith, 10, and Uma Roberts, 8.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Riverdale show a howling success

Every year for the past nine years, about 50 local residents, both adults and children known as The Langley Collective, put on a show at the corner of Howland Road and Langley Street in Riverdale on Halloween night. Since the first edition, the show has outgrown its Langley Street front-yard origin, moving to Howland Road for the first time this year. Organizers expect more than 2,000 spectators to attend the three performances tonight of Witches and Warlocks, featuring acting and choreography from neighbourhood parents and children. Story, page 3.

Fewer births at Halloween

Yale University study suggests pregnant women can control timing of baby's arrival

Halloween is already a hectic day for parents. Now, a Yale University study suggests many pregnant women want to keep their child's birthday out of that mix.

The study found a significant decrease in births on Halloween in the United States over an 11-year period. It found an increase in births on Valentine's Day.

The results raise the possibility that pregnant women can control the timing of spontaneous births.

It's not uncommon for pregnant women to miss their due dates by a week or two, but it's unknown what exactly determines variability within that span, said Becca Levy, associate professor of epidemiology and psychology, who led the study.

The study found spontaneous births decreased 5.3 per cent on Halloween but increased 3.6 per cent on Valentine's Day.

"Cultural factors could play a role in pushing that (due birth) date forwards or backwards."
BECCA LEVY, WHO LED THE STUDY

Scheduled births were heavily influenced by the holidays, according to the study. Caesarian births jumped 12.1 per cent on Valentine's Day, but decreased 16.9 per cent on Halloween.

The research team selected widely recognized holidays, Levy said. Halloween, a day whose imagery includes themes of death and fear "is probably counter to the kinds of associations people want to have with having a child," she said.

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TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Annie Kidder

Changes urged for parent councils

Parent councils at schools across Ontario are focusing on initiatives such as fundraising and school safety, when they should be focusing on student achievement.

That's the conclusion of a report to be released today by People for Education.

The councils, made up of parents, the principal and a staff representative, were originally intended to improve student achievement, but they've evolved into something quite different, the report says.

Instead, parents mostly see them as a way to communicate with families, promote school safety, encourage healthy initiatives — and fundraise, said executive director Annie Kidder.

"By focusing on communicating with parents and home- and community-building through social events, school councils appear to be carving out a different role for themselves than was originally intended," says the report, based on a survey of parent councils across Ontario. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Halloween show goes big

- More than 2,000 spectators expected at annual Riverdale spectacle
- Showcase started in 2002 with spoof of Michael Jackson's Thriller video

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Neils Fleming, left with checkered shirt, dances with Jan Parnega-Welch, right. Every year, Riverdale residents put on a big show on Halloween night.

As producer Sammy Ray Welch awaited the start of dress rehearsal for his Halloween showcase, a man pushing a baby carriage down Howland Road in Riverdale slowed to gaze at a group of volunteers scrambling to finish building a stage that stretched from sidewalk to sidewalk. "What's going on here?" he asked.

"It's our annual Halloween show," Welch answered. "You're new to the 'hood, aren't you?"

In the nine years since the first edition of the show — staged by a dedicated group of roughly 50 adults and children known as "The Langley Collective" — it has outgrown the Langley Street front yard, moving to Howland Road for the first time this year.

$4,600

Sammy Ray Welch says this year's show cost $4,600, or twice what the showcase usually costs, with the money going to everything from insurance to city permits to street signs.

There will be three performances of Witches and Warlocks, a 16-minute show that will feature acting and choreography from neighbourhood parents and children.

As the showcase's popularity expands, so do the headaches involved with staging the show.

And organizers hope to accommodate the showcase's rapidly rising profile without sacrificing the local charm that makes it a uniquely Riverdale event.

"The charm of (the first performance) has definitely gone away," said L.J. Savage, who hosted that performance on his front yard. "But as long as it stays that core group of people with a few exceptions there's never a worry about that."

The showcase started in 2002 when Savage, his wife, Donna Maclachlan, and a group of other parents from the east end of Langley brainstormed ideas for Halloween entertainment.

Maclachlan, an experienced dancer, decided to gather the families' children and teach them the dance steps from Michael Jackson's Thriller video. Savage, a stage director by trade, cobbled together a lighting and sound system, and the group staged three performances. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 news

Universities are trying to prevent students from getting discouraged with their studies and eventually dropping out. Scan code for story.

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The recent agreement on the EU's plans to bail out Greece promises to have the expected warming effect on the markets. Video at metronews.ca

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Judge finds cop 'concocted facts'

Drug case dismissed after breach of suspect's Charter rights One officer's evidence pitted against partner's

A judge has dismissed drug charges against a driver after finding a police officer "concocted facts" in testimony that pitted his word against his partner's.

"This was egregious and wilful conduct," Ontario Superior Court Justice Nancy Backhouse said in her written ruling.

Const. Ido Sukman "concocted facts in an effort to support his conduct, which I believe he knew was in violation of the Charter," Backhouse said.

His patrol partner on the night in question, Const. Qian Liang Yang, gave a markedly different version of what happened after they stopped a driver with his tail lights off.

The Crown urged the judge to reject Yang's evidence as unreliable.

The judge disagreed. "I found him a credible witness."

Two versions

- **Sukman** testified he decided to ask the suspect why his tail lights were not on before he got the CPIC information.
- **But Yang** said Sukman decided to stop the Miata after he got the CPIC information.
- **Sukman** said he went to the driver's side of the car and noticed three small plastic bags with whitish powder residue that he recognized as heroin on the passenger seat.
- **Yang** testified he did not see any drugs on Le's passenger seat.

Backhouse excluded evidence of drugs found on Luke Chi Le, 29, and dismissed his charges of possession of heroin and cocaine, and possession of heroin for the purposes of trafficking.

At 9:25 p.m. on June 28, the two officers drove into a driveway on Graydon Hall Drive, where they saw a Miata with no tail lights on.

The officers checked the police database, CPIC, and found the car belonged to Le and that he was suspected by York Regional Police of drug activity.

Sukman searched Le and found $1,240 in cash, 2.02 grams of cocaine and 11.7 grams of heroin.

The judge excluded the drug evidence, owing to Sukman's "deliberate breach" of Le's Charter rights. "The police conduct brings the administration of justice into disrepute," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Howl-o-Ween

Pet owner Nigel White gets in the Halloween spirit yesterday with his dog Mac during "Howl-o-ween" High Tea at Toronto's King Edward Hotel.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pooches parade Halloween costumes

Pet owners dressed up their pooches in Halloween costumes yesterday afternoon and paraded them around the runway to kick of the Winter Woofstock event that runs Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 at the Direct Energy Centre at Exhibition Place.

Officer in hospital after fire erupts at highrise

A Toronto police officer was taken to hospital after responding to a two-alarm blaze in North York yesterday afternoon.

Flames erupted in an apartment on an upper floor of the highrise near Eglinton Avenue E. and Don Mills Road shortly before 2 p.m.

Toronto Emergency Medical Services said the officer from 54 division suffered smoke inhalation.

The male officer was stuck on a balcony on the 20th floor where the fire started, said police.

Nobody was in the two-bedroom unit at the time, said District Chief Norm Crawford

Crawford added that there was no structural damage to the building and the fire was contained in the apartment.

Toronto Fire Services said several other people were being sheltered inside the building by fire crews because of heavy smoke.

Thick black smoke could be seen from the nearby Don Valley Parkway.

Crawford said fire investigators will now conduct an "overhaul" to determine the cause of the blaze.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Response

- Firefighters put out the main part of the fire within half an hour.
- Residents of the highrise have not been allowed to return.

For more local news visit metronews.ca/toronto

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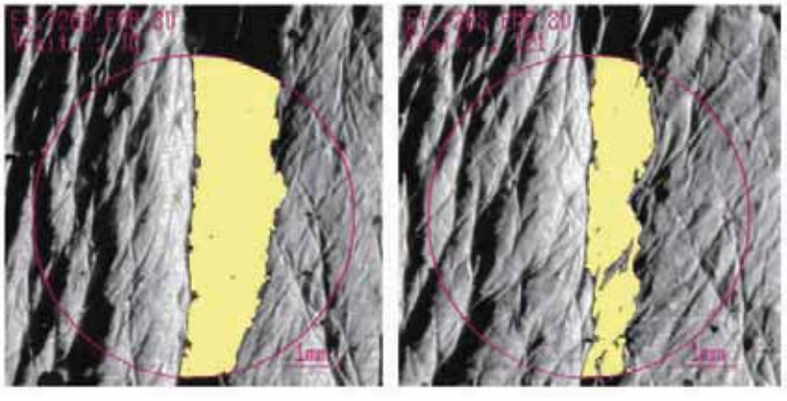

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Has malaria met its match?

Toronto doctor hopes a new treatment can increase the survival rate of children with cerebral malaria

Hundreds of thousands of children die each year from cerebral malaria, but a new treatment developed by a Canadian could reduce the impact of the debilitating disease.

Dr. Kevin Kain, one of the world's leading experts in malaria, is conducting a study to determine whether nitric oxide can improve the survival rates of children with cerebral malaria, as well as prevent the disease's debilitating neurological side effects.

"To think 7.7 million kids die before they reach their fifth birthday — it's shocking," said the 56-year-old head of the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health, Tropical Disease Unit in Toronto. "Almost all of those (deaths) — 98 per cent — occur in the developing world. It's very unfair."

Nitric oxide

- Naturally produced by the body, nitric oxide controls a variety of biological processes. Severe malaria decreases its production, leading to harmful effects.
- Dr. Kevin Kain's project comes at a time when years of collective efforts at eradicating the deadly disease seem to be reaching a critical mass.
- In September, the World Health Organization announced that malaria deaths had been cut by 38 per cent over the past 10 years — and it hoped to reduce the number of deaths to near zero by 2015.

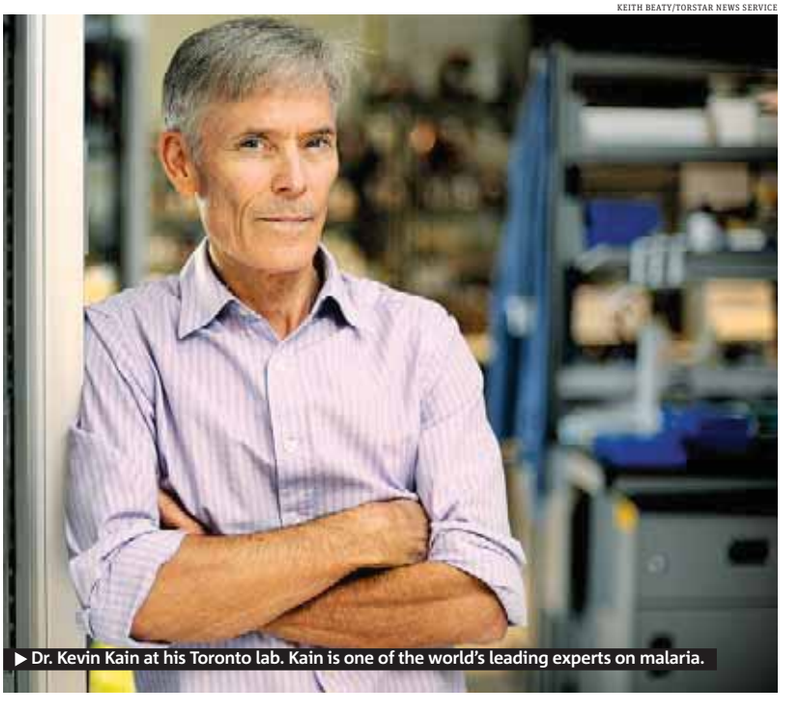
Kain's work is part of a wave of efforts focusing on malaria — a scourge in the developing world, with 200 million cases annually and a death toll of about one million a year.

The nitric oxide study has just started in a hospital in Uganda. It will take a year to 18 months to complete and, if successful, could mean a sea-change in medical treatment, Kain said.

Doctors could begin to use nitric oxide (not the anesthetic nitrous oxide) on children almost immediately — between two and five years after a successful trial.

In scientific terms that's relatively fast: it's usually many years of trials before vaccines are used on humans. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ Dr. Kevin Kain at his Toronto lab. Kain is one of the world's leading experts on malaria.

U.S. pundit calls Ford 'worst person'

A firestorm over a 911 call peppered with expletives has earned embattled Mayor Rob Ford a dubious honour south of the border.

U.S. political commentator Keith Olbermann dubbed the controversial mayor the "worst person in the world" during his television show on Friday.

Ford lost his cool with 911 operators after a confrontation with a CBC comedy troupe in his driveway Monday morning.

The incident has since dogged the mayor, who admits "saying the F-word" but denies using any slurs against 911 dispatchers. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

PETER KRAMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Keith Olbermann

Man seriously injured after apartment fire

A man is seriously hurt after an early morning apartment fire in northwest Toronto.

Firefighters were called to a building near Keele Street and Wilson Avenue at about 2:45 a.m. yesterday. Fire officials are investigating and say a cigarette may have sparked the blaze. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Hands off Syria, Assad tells West

Syrian President Bashar Assad warned the Middle East will burn if the West intervenes in his country's seven-month-old uprising, threatening to turn the region into "tens of Afghanistans."

Assad's comments, published in an interview with Britain's Sunday Telegraph, were his harshest so far regarding the potential for foreign intervention. But they belie a growing concern over the possibility of some sort of Western military action after months of NATO airstrikes helped rebellious Libyans oust Moammar Gadhafi.

Still the U.S. and its allies have shown little appetite for intervening in another Arab nation in turmoil.

And unlike Gadhafi, Assad enjoys a number of powerful allies that give him the means to push back against outside pressure. A conflict in Syria risks touching off a wider Middle East conflict with arch foes Israel and Iran in the mix. Syria wouldn't have to look far for prime targets to strike, sharing a border with U.S.-backed Israel and NATO-member Turkey. Syria is the closest Arab ally of Iran and has ties to Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement and other radical groups including the militant Palestinian Hamas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Syria is the hub now in this region. It is the fault line, and if you play with the ground, you will cause an earthquake."
SYRIAN PRESIDENT BASHAR ASSAD

▶ A Palestinian woman reacts during the funeral of Islamic Jihad militant Ahmed al-Sheikh Khalil in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Inset: Israeli women stand over the grave of a relative killed by a rocket launched from the Palestinian Gaza Strip during his funeral yesterday in Ashkelon.

News in brief

Rivals target Iran's president

TEHRAN. Iran's parliament is set to summon President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (shown at left) for questioning over an economic scandal and his policies after the required number of lawmakers signed a petition yesterday, the latest salvo in a long battle between the president and his rivals. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Climate change is real: Skeptic

WASHINGTON. A prominent physicist and skeptic of global warming spent two years trying to find out if mainstream climate scientists were wrong. In the end, he determined they were right: Temperatures really are rising rapidly.

The study of the world's surface temperatures by Richard Muller was partially bankrolled by a foundation connected to global warming deniers. He pursued long-held skeptic theories in analyzing the data. He was spurred to action because of "Climategate," a British scandal involving hacked emails of scientists.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlement in anthrax death

WEST PALM BEACH. The widow of a Florida tabloid photo editor who died in the 2001 anthrax mailings has reached a settlement in her $50 million lawsuit against the U.S. government. The details of the settlement between Maureen Stevens and the government were not disclosed. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Woodbine to Kennedy

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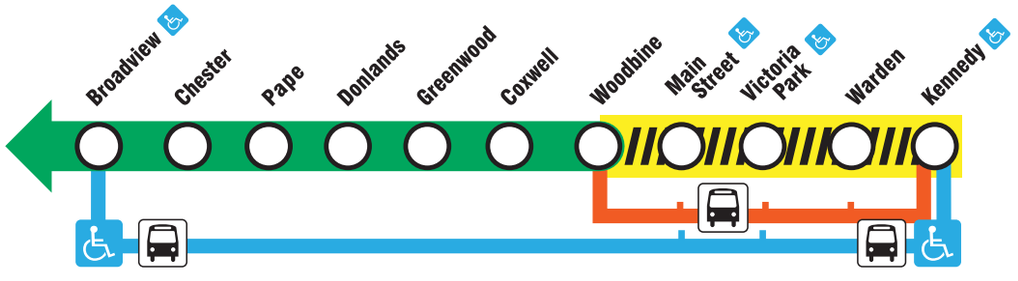

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EYAD BABA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; INSET: GETTY IMAGES

Rocket fire threatens stability of Gaza Strip

Despite renewed violence, both Israeli and Hamas officials say they would like to restore calm that has prevailed in region since 2009

A new round of violence between Israel and Palestinian militants has Gaza's Hamas rulers caught between reluctance to take on Israel and discomfort with reining in fellow Islamists from smaller, more radical groups involved in the fighting.

The fighting has killed 10 Palestinians and an Israeli, casting doubts on assessments that the recent prisoner swap between Israel and Hamas might improve relations between the bitter foes. Despite the worst bloodshed in months, both sides indicated they were interested in restoring calm.

Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, has avoided direct involvement in the latest burst of fighting. Hamas lost hundreds of men in a fierce Israeli offensive against rocket squads three years ago and has largely maintained calm since then.

"The Israeli military can do it. A normal country cannot allow that every three months some terrorist ... can force 1.5 million people into shelters."
PROMINENT ISRAELI HAIM RAMON, URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO TOPPLE HAMAS

At the same time, the group, which has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings and other attacks, remains committed to armed struggle against Israel. Threatened by even more radical rivals in Gaza, Hamas has not criticized anyone for attacking Israel.

Most of the violence this weekend has been between Israel and Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed group that is considered even more extreme than Hamas. Israel says it holds Hamas responsible for attacks from Gaza, and there is little doubt that Hamas' control — when it wants to exercise it — is strong.

In the latest violence, an Israeli airstrike hit a pair of militants in Gaza yesterday as they prepared to fire a rocket into Israel, the military said. Gaza's Health Ministry said one man was killed and a second was wounded. Just before nightfall, Gaza militants fired another rocket into southern Israel which landed in an open area and caused no injuries or damage, the army said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Third party violence

During the current round of violence, Israel has responded to immediate threats of militants firing mortars or rockets, but has so far stopped short of hitting larger, strategic targets.

The latest round of violence was set off by a rocket attack last Wednesday by Islamic Jihad.

As a precautionary measure, Israeli officials closed schools near Gaza, as well as Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, officials said.

In Gaza, senior militants disappeared from the streets and Hamas movement scaled back its police deployment, apparently afraid they would be targeted by Israeli planes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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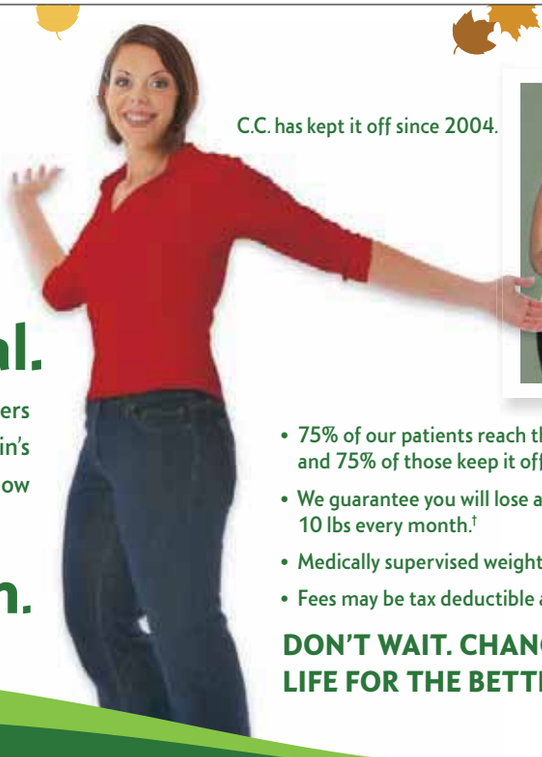

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Halloween makeup paints a frightful picture for kids

Study shows many face paints are laced with lead and other toxins

JOE LOFARO
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN OTTAWA

Some parents may think the ghost-white makeup they lather on their kids' faces this Halloween night is safe because of the non-toxic label on the package.

Think again, says John Bennett.

The Sierra Club Canada executive director said many makeup products that claim to be non-toxic actually contain heavy metals such as lead.

That shocking revelation is highlighted in a 2009 report entitled Pretty Scary: Could Halloween Face Paint Cause Lifelong Health Problems? by U.S.-based Campaign for Safer Cosmetics.

Ten out of 10 face paint products tested contained lead, which can harm children's developing brains, the report said.

Six out of 10 contained nickel, cobalt, and/or chromium at higher than recommended levels.

"We wanted to make sure parents had this opportunity to understand what they might be putting on their children's faces and give them an opportunity to do the alternative — to make their own or find other ways of dressing children without resorting to these chemically-laced makeups."

Bennett suggests parents visit safecosmetics.org to learn about natural, homemade makeup recipes. To get a brown colour of makeup, the website recommends mixing chocolate sauce into a cocoa butter base.

The manager of Ottawa's Malabar Costume House, Blane Holtz, said he only sells premium makeup products, such as Germany's Kryolan and Ben Nye from the U.S.

"I don't carry basic Halloween, cheap, made in China makeup," said Holtz. "I stay away from that. You have no idea what's in it."

"I wouldn't let a kid put a lead product on their face," he said.

Neither will Oresta Korbutiak, an aesthetician who runs Oresta Organic Skin Care in Ottawa. She plans to dress her seven-year-old daughter, Kalyna, in a dog costume with only a touch of natural makeup.

"Some people may say you only wear it once ... but it's the bottom of the barrel on the list of ingredients," said Korbutiak. "I won't put it on my daughter."

JOE LOFARO/METRO

▶ Metro Ottawa reporter Joe Lofaro opted for the cheapest non-toxic makeup he could find at a specialty Halloween store when he put this zipper face look together for a party Saturday night.

Left in the dark

- Several makeup products on store shelves this Halloween season lack lists of ingredients, so consumers are often left in the dark as to what exactly is in them.
- Sierra Club Canada is one of the organizations that are trying to change that.

"Health Canada doesn't require full labelling and the toxic chemicals in makeup in general, not just for face paint, are considered proprietary information," said Sierra Club Canada executive director, John Bennett. "So we can't see what toxic materials are actually in them. We think that, ultimately, this is something that Health Canada should take up and require full labelling of all the ingredients."

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Imam falsely arrested in Saudi Arabia: Witnesses

Eyewitnesses and a human rights group are imploring the Canadian government to act fast after they say an Edmonton imam was beaten, arrested and falsely charged while on pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

Usama Al-Atar was leading a prayer recitation in the holy city of Medina yesterday morning when members of the country's religious police reportedly asked the small group to move along, said a British member of the group.

Mohamed Hayward said the officials then proceeded to harass the pilgrims and zeroed in on Al-Atar.

▶ Usama Al-Atar

"We were set upon by about 10 to 15 of these religious police and at the end of it all he got jumped and arrested," Hayward said yesterday in a phone interview from Medina.

"They virtually strangled him. We saw him go black and blue."

Hayward said the 33-year-old Canadian didn't try to resist the roughing up and remained passive, but authorities still went on to arrest him.

"Now he's languishing in a jail," he said, adding that Al-Atar is expected to appear in court this morning to face unclear charges.

Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs has yet to comment on the reported incident.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kenney looks to rejuvenate workforce

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney has plans to reshape and rejuvenate the Canadian workforce.

Step one comes this week when he announces immigration targets for next year.

The minister tells The Canadian Press he wants a snappy, efficient immigration machine that will help solve Canada's demographic imbalance, while boosting the country's competitiveness.

After that, he wants to grapple with the backlog of applications, which is now about a million names long.

And then he wants to rejig the criteria for skilled workers to come into the country, putting priority on young people, high-quality education and language.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Flocking. Downtown

▶ A shepherd leads a flock of sheep along a downtown street yesterday during an annual parade in Madrid.

ARTURO RODRIGUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shepherds not sheepish about march

Spanish shepherds led about 5,000 sheep through the streets of Madrid yesterday in defence of ancient grazing, migration and droving rights threatened by urban sprawl and man-made frontiers.

Is it a boy or girl? Either one may rule

New succession rules agreed for British monarch

The British monarch's first-born child, whether a girl or a boy, will ascend the throne under new succession rules approved by Commonwealth nations, reversing centuries of tradition.

Commonwealth national leaders also agreed at a summit in the western Australian city of Perth on Friday to lift a ban on monarchs marrying Roman Catholics, British Prime Minister David Cameron said.

Britain or any of the 15 former British colonies for which Queen Elizabeth II is monarch could have vetoed the changes to current rules that ensure that a male heir takes the throne ahead of older sisters.

"Attitudes have changed fundamentally over the centuries and some of the outdated rules — like some of the rules of succession — just don't make sense to us any more," Cameron told reporters in Perth.

"The idea that a younger son should become monarch instead of an elder daughter simply because he is a man, or that a future monarch can marry someone of any faith except a Catholic — this way of thinking is at odds with the modern countries that we have become," he added.

Enactment

- All 16 countries have to begin legislative processes to enact the reforms.
- In Britain, that means passing and amending several pieces of legislation.
- The complexity of getting all the countries to begin the processes has held up the changes for decades.
- New Zealand will chair a working group for the countries to discuss how to accomplish the reforms.

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Flooding will spare Bangkok: PM

Situation not as good in the countryside Entire towns have been submerged Dikes break

Thailand's prime minister expressed optimism yesterday that the country's worst flooding in a half-century would mostly spare Bangkok, as some dikes overflowed but the capital's defences otherwise held firm during critical high tides.

Waters were receding from many inundated areas of Thailand after killing 381 people, but the misery remained for several communities still under water and feverish efforts to protect downtown Bangkok continued as runoff from the north pushed through on its way to the Gulf of Thailand.

The network of dikes defending against the city's main Chao Phraya river broke down in at least two neighbourhoods as a record high tide pushed up from the gulf, with water spilling into streets as city workers and troops rushed to shore up concrete walls with sandbags.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra told residents of Bangkok to be "confident" as she headed into a government crisis meeting, saying there may be overflow into some areas but that it would not cause any great damage.

"We will recover soon," she said.

Bangkok's governor, Sukhumbhand Paribatra, said the Chao Phraya reached a record level early yesterday of 2.53 metres, just above what he previously said were dike heights of 2.5 metres. However, the tides were expected to ease below critical levels after today, and officials have suggested that the flooding situation will improve after that.

In the past week, the waters have reached into outer neighbourhoods of the capital, while its central districts of skyscrapers, apartment towers and glitzy malls have remained dry.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Thai soldiers hold onto each other against the stream of water flowing into a neighbourhood after a wall was breached by the swollen Chao Phraya River in Bangkok yesterday.

Storm wallops U.S. Northeast

A freak October snowstorm knocked out power yesterday to more than 3.2 million homes and businesses across the U.S. Northeast, with close to 60 centimetres of snow falling in areas.

The storm was even more damaging because leaves still on the trees caught more of the particularly wet and heavy snow, overloading branches that snapped and wreaked havoc.

From Maryland to Maine, officials said it would take days to restore electricity, even though the snow ended yesterday.

The storm smashed record snowfall totals for October and worsened as it moved north. It was blamed for at least 11 deaths, and states of emergency were declared in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and parts of New York.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROBERT F. BUKATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A jack-o'-lantern is covered with snow yesterday in Maine.

Giant Lego man to stay in police custody

Lego man will be in police custody for three months.

The 45-kilogram, 2.4-meter-tall sculpture, didn't do anything wrong except wash up on a Florida beach last week. But Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight says his office will hold the fiberglass sculpture for 90 days just like all other lost and found property.

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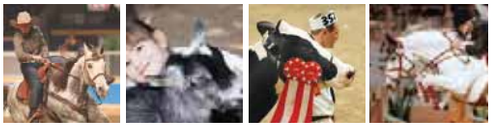

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‘Now’s the hour’ for Scottish independence?

Two recent polls show record-high support for leaving the U.K. Referendum could come in 2014

Scottish poet Robert Burns might have put it this way: “Now’s the hour.”

Scotland is on the march toward the momentous choice of whether to sever its ties to Britain — and the momentum is with the nationalists.

The march began this month, with a fiery speech by First Minister Alex Salmond to his Scottish National Party convention and an official launch of the referendum campaign.

Already, Scotland is closer to independence than it has been at any time in the past few decades. In May, Scottish voters handed a historic landslide victory to the SNP, and with it came the licence to lead Scots out of the union.

The betting is that the vote will be held around June 24, 2014, the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, when Robert the Bruce won freedom for the Scots. The poetry of that anniversary is hard to resist in a land that puts the two Roberts — the 14th-century king and the 18th-century poet — at the pinnacle of historic heroes.

“In my heart, in my head, I think Scotland will become an independent country.”
ALEX SALMOND, SCOTLAND’S FIRST MINISTER

“Now’s the day, and now’s the hour,” Burns wrote in his ballad of Bannockburn. “Liberty’s in every blow! Let us do or die!”

Scottish independence, in fact, is on two tracks. In addition to the referendum, the so-called Scotland Bill is working its way through the British parliament.

This bill is the next chapter in a phased devolution of powers that began in the 1990s and led to the re-establishment of the Scottish parliament in 1999. Independence-shy Scots may still well lean to this option, which the SNP is determined to wring for all the power Scotland can obtain.

“The days of Westminster politicians telling Scotland what to do or what to think are over,” Salmond said last weekend. “The people of Scotland — the sovereign people of Scotland — are now in the driving seat.” **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

MARTIN BUREAU/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Scottish fans sing at the Rugby World Cup in Invercargill last month. “Perhaps it served the people of Scotland, or some people, to enter the union in 1707, but we should look at new arrangements,” says Fiona Hyslop, cabinet secretary for culture and external affairs.

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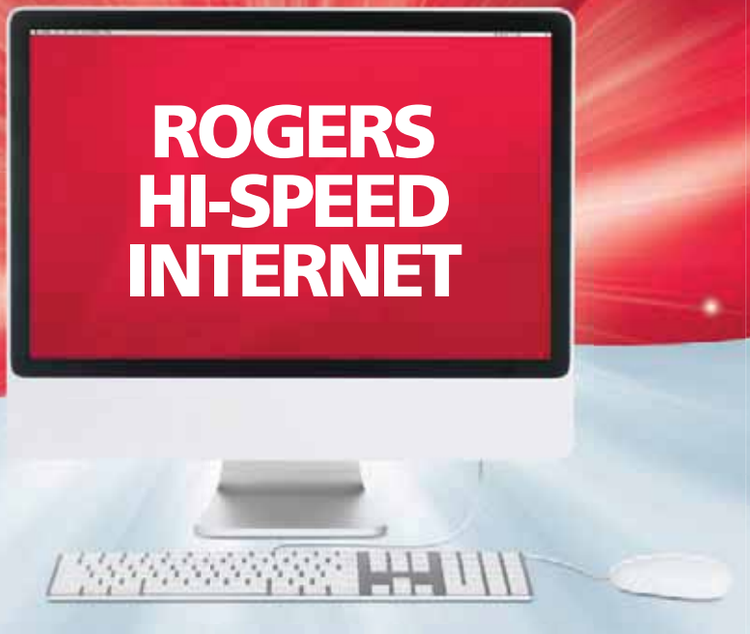

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Political. Zombie

▶ Protesters outside the election launch for New Zealand's National Party yesterday in Auckland. New Zealanders head to the polls on Nov. 26 to decide who will lead their 50th Parliament.

SIMON WATTS/GETTY IMAGES

Protests mar New Zealand election launch

Heart&Stroke calendar lottery

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Metropolitan Panel

Kabul gets bowling alley

First centre a strike with bored residents, but check your guns at the door

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Meena Rahmani, 26, holds a bowling ball in The Strikers, Afghanistan's first bowling centre, in Kabul on Friday.

In an Afghan capital scarred by years of war, a young Afghan woman has bet $1 million US that her countrymen could use a little fun.

Located just down the street from Kabul's glitziest mall is The Strikers, the country's first bowling alley and owner Meena Rahmani's gamble on the capital's newest entertainment venue. But more than a place for family fun in a city largely devoid of options, the 12-lane centre stands as a reflection of the country's hope for the future.

Aside from the cultural significance of such a centre in a country largely lacking entertainment choices, building the bowling alley was a massive undertaking. All the equipment is imported, the engineers came from China and the alley is powered by several industrial-sized generators. The entrance to the alley sits behind blast-resistant steel doors guarded by burly men toting assault rifles.

Rahmani has gambled $1 million of her own money — secured from the sale of family land — that the centre will not only help bored Afghans kill a few hours, but also a place where men, women and families can gather and relax, not burdened by the social, religious and cultural restrictions that govern daily life in the impoverished country.

Inside, several Afghans, most of whom learned to bowl abroad, seem to agree. In the month since it opened, The Strikers has become a hit.

Rahmani, who left Afghanistan in 1992 and spent 15 years in Pakistan with her parents before moving to Canada for graduate studies, said the idea came to her when she visited her home country several years ago and found there was nothing for Afghans to do beyond going out to eat, going for walks or visiting family.

An hour of bowling costs $35, divided between as many as six players to a lane. A cup of coffee costs $5, more than the average local daily wage.

She concedes its unaffordable for most in the country, but says that when expenses and start-up costs are so high, she had little choice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kabul attack emboldens critics of Islamabad

The weekend suicide bombing of a NATO convoy that killed 17 people, including one Canadian soldier, adds urgency to the coalition's work to expand a security bubble around the Afghan capital.

In the brazen midday assault in Kabul, a suicide bomber rammed a vehicle packed with explosives into an armoured coalition bus. Heavily armoured military vehicles also were in the convoy, but the bomber targeted the bus, which was carrying troops and civilians contractors.

With most of the attacks in Kabul blamed on the Pakistan-based Haqqani network, the latest reinforced U.S. and Afghan demands that Islamabad do more to curb militant activity and sanctuaries.

At least 11 of about 15 major attacks in the capital this year can be blamed on the Haqqanis, according to a senior official with the coalition.

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Kodak pins future on sale of patents

Grim financial picture should become clearer when company reports third-quarter results Thursday

BRENDAN HOFFMAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ CEO Antonio Perez

Picture this: Kodak — the company that invented the first digital camera in 1975, and developed the photo technology inside most cellphones and digital devices — is in the midst of the worst crisis in its 131-year history.

Now, caught between ruin and revival, Eastman Kodak Co. is reaching ever more deeply into its intellectual treasure chest, betting that a big cash infusion from the sale of 1,100 digital-imaging inventions will see it through a transition that has raised the spectre of bankruptcy.

Kodak has been hawking the digital patents since July. Many financial analysts expect the portfolio to fetch $2 billion to $3 billion. But others think Kodak can haul in far more than that because patents have become highly valuable to digital device makers who want to protect themselves from intellectual-property lawsuits.

In July, an alliance made up of Apple and Microsoft purchased a raft of patents from Nortel Networks for $4.5 billion. A month later, Google bought Motorola Mobility for $12.5 billion, in part, to gain hold of the company's 17,000 patents.

Kodak's chief executive, Antonio Perez, has signed confidentiality agreements with potential buyers but hasn't given a time frame for a deal. The patents for capturing, storing, organizing, editing and sharing digital images do not apply to the four core businesses, Kodak spokesman Gerard Meuchner says.

A sale represents a sharp tactical shift.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Qantas. Dispute

▶ Passengers line up to speak to customer-service reps from Australian carrier Qantas at Singapore's Changi airport yesterday, a day after the carrier grounded its entire fleet due to a bitter industrial dispute.

SIMIN WANG/GETTY IMAGES

Airline up in the air again

Qantas Airways was expected to resume flying today after an Australian court ended a labour dispute that led the airline to ground its entire fleet over the weekend, stranding passengers around the world.

Foxconn to build robots

Foxconn Technology, contract manufacturer for iPhones and iPads, says it is building a multimillion-dollar manufacturing complex in Taichung, Taiwan, to produce factory automation equipment and medical care robots in the wake of slowing computer sales. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. FRIDAY

TSX	Dollar
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LIA GRAINGER/METRO

▶ Two performers at the Comedy Bar's Rap Battles duke it out.

WAGING A BATTLE TO GET A LAUGH

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Stroll through the increasingly trendy Bloordale neighbourhood on a rainy Wednesday night, and chances are the streets will be deserted.

But descend the flight of stairs at 945 Bloor West and you'll enter a lively bar, packed with comedy lovers sipping pints and waiting for the next show of the evening, in which a dozen of Toronto's funniest comedians will battle one another in rhyming hip-hop verse.

Such was the scene this past Wednesday at The Comedy Bar, a combined pub and theatre that has become a hub for the comedy community in Toronto since opening three years ago.

"There was nowhere in town where comedy was a first priority," says comedian and co-owner Gary Rideout Jr. of the impetus for opening the joint. Unlike the old Toronto mainstays like Yuk Yuk's and Second City, the Comedy Bar doesn't cater to one specific comedic form: they feature sketch, improv and stand-up, and with an average of 14 different shows a week, Rideout Jr. says there's likely something to offer to suit every taste.

The ten o'clock show on this particular Wednesday is Rap Battles, a well attended affair that sees comedians adopt absurd rapper personas — "Frankenstein-atra", Actual Dracula", and "Universal Dad," to name just three — and then square off to see who can drop the most creatively insulting rhymes.

The concept for Rap Battles came out of the Festival of New Formats, one of several showcases the venue hosts that serve to foster creativity in the Toronto comedy community.

It's free to attend and take part in the January festival, and all shows must take a different and new format. The best — like Rap Battles — go on to become regular Comedy Bar events.

And it's not just for locals. Since opening, the little venue has drawn some pretty big names: Kevin Sorbo, Andy Kindler and Tim Meadows have all graced the stage, and Canadian improv legend Colin Mochrie drops in regularly. Rideout Jr. says they've been bringing in more talent from places like New York and Chicago on the weekends, and yet it's still the local favourites, like the Sketchersons Sunday Night Live that consistently bring out the biggest crowds.

"Comedy is really thriving in this city," says Rideout Jr. And now, thanks to the Comedy Bar, it finally has a home.

Metropolitan Panel
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New tattooed Barbie: Bad influence or badass?

Local tweets

- **@kimmy drapack:** Carving pumpkins with the fam #yahalloween
- **@jborenstein1:** #Toronto bound. Insane weekend in #Montreal. Let the recovery begin.. #KILLEDhalloween
- **@Samuel_Meredith:** The houses in #Roncesvalles are getting all dolled up for #Halloween! #Toronto
- **@swolau:** Back from our in the city hike, which was really more like a lazy stroll. At least the dog worked off some energy. #Toronto #oldmill
- **@jellerton:** Home sweet home, #Toronto. Lovely autumn day. Dim sum, AGO, Vespa ride and High Park.
- **@coreydynes:** Dear #Toronto stop having #NFL games here or get a team. #useless #didntevensellout #leafgametonight
- **@learmos:** Can someone explain how a #Buffalo #Bill game played in #Toronto is considered a home game. #nfl #cfl #notourgame
- **@24thminute:** Note to Toronto sports media: Buffalo is not a suburb of Toronto. There is a simple reason why Toronto not embracing #Bills as their own....

Letters

RE: Confession: I have a thing for the GOP, published Oct. 27.

I am a fourth year Simon Fraser University student taking a course that focuses on Canadian racism, classism, and sexism. Mr. Mazerolle's column was used as an example of racism in the media in our class. In fact, his article was such a strong exemplar that it became the star of our class discussions addressing various aspects of racism, including what is called cultural racism and the homogenization of racism.

Cultural racism, also known as the "new racism" refers to individuals or groups of people making claims that particular ethnic groups are inferior based on their race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, and so on.

The article was culturally racist towards: Americans (it offended the U.S. citizens in our class, irregardless of their race, nationality, religion, gender, class, sexual orientation), Conservatives, and Christians who are part of a group that represents a 33,000+ total number of "Christian" denominations.

MARYANNE, VANCOUVER

photo of the day

metro PHOTO CHALLENGE

▶ This photo titled I Really Don't Like You, was submitted to the Moments of my Life category by vinny from Quebec.

Metro invites its readers to join the Metro Global Photo Challenge — running in 100 cities on four continents — to win fantastic prizes and worldwide recognition. Enter your digital photos at metrophotochallenge.com. The contest runs until Nov. 22. As well as a chance to win a trip to any city Metro publishes, one submission will also be featured here daily.

WEIRD NEWS

Even if you sell it, they will still come

The sprawling eastern Iowa cornfields made famous by the movie Field of Dreams are being sold to a company that will preserve the site's baseball legacy, the owners announced yesterday.

Don and Becky Lansing said they have accepted an offer from Mike and Denise Stillman and their company, Go the Distance Baseball LLC, which will develop the site near Dyersville as a baseball and softball complex.

"We worked hard to maintain its wholesome allure, and our success says a lot about our nation's love affair with its national pastime," Becky Lansing said in a statement. "It truly is a special place."

The land has been in Don Lansing's family since 1906. The couple put the property up for sale at $5.4 million US in May 2010. The parcel includes the two-bedroom house, baseball diamond, six other buildings and 193 acres — mostly cornfields — from the movie.

The Lansings said earlier this year that they had received several inquiries about the site but were committed to finding a buyer that would preserve its legacy. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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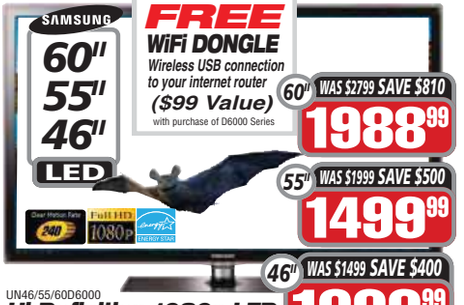

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Bikers and the Bard

Kim Coates might look the part of a gritty gang member, but The Sons of Anarchy actor loves Hamlet as much as his Harley Reveals what to expect on the second season of SOA

Kim Coates is so convincing on Sons of Anarchy that real-life bikers like to give him their opinion of the show.

Case in point. Coates was at the gym a few years ago when an ex-biker club member got right in his face.

"Listen man," Coates recalls the guy saying, "I'm not gonna pull any punches." Using colourful language, the biker went on to tell Coates that while he enjoyed his performance, he had problems with the show.

The 52-year-old actor calmly stood his ground. "I said to him, 'It's a TV show. Based on some truths, based on Hamlet metaphorically, but it's a TV show.'"

Maybe it was the Hamlet reference that soothed the dude. Maybe it was Coates' Harley out front. Whatever, Coates was able to make the case that he was "just trying to do a television show within the genre of the biker world."

Canadians who have not yet found the series on the Pay TV service Super Channel can catch up from the beginning when it premieres tomorrow night at 10 p.m. on FX Canada. The new Rogers-owned specialty channel launches tonight.

Coates loves being on Sons of Anarchy and is thrilled the series set an FX premiere ratings record when it returned in the U.S. last month for a fourth season. The Saskatchewan native has never been busier. Besides Sons of Anarchy, he was a familiar face on the just-finished HBO series Entourage.

HANDOUT

▶ Saskatchewan native Kim Coates has been busy lately with roles in Sons of Anarchy, the recently-ended HBO series Entourage and five different films.

Coates has roles in five films set to come out, including Sacrifice with Cuba Gooding, Jr., and A Little Help opposite Jenna Fischer (The Office). He was at the Toronto International Film Festival last month to promote the rowdy hockey movie Goon (co-written by Jay Baruchel). Seann William Scott, Alison Pill and Eugene Levy also have roles in the film, which will be released next year.

When not working, Coates feels at home on his Harley, a custom-built Wide Glide. "Got to kind of design it myself from Eagle Nest Harley in Sacramento," says Coates, one of only two SOA cast members with biker cred heading into the series.

Despite his onscreen image — often as the creep next door — in over 40 films, Coates is a pussycat himself, a dedicated family man married for 26 years with two grown daughters.

As for the Shakespeare metaphor, Coates is equally at home around Hamlet as he is on a Harley. He starred as Macbeth at Stratford when he was just 27 (singling out director Tom Kerr as "my mentor") and enjoyed a run on Broadway as Stanley Kowalski in A Streetcar Named Desire.

His love of theatre began at the University of Saskatchewan where he took a drama class "just for fun." He wound up doing play after play over four years, "an amazing learning ground for me."

He gets the Hamlet thing on SOA and credits series creator Kurt Sutter with turning this outlaw biker crew into compelling television. "Kurt's an amazing storyteller," says Coates.

There was one time when Coates felt Sutter made a wrong turn on the series. Without spoiling what happens in Season Two, there is a moment when Tig (Coates) gets cozy with Gemma (Katey Sagal), the wife of the club president, Clay (Perlman). Coates read the script, could not believe Tig would ever sneak around on Clay and demanded to see Sutter.

"Take a breath," Sutter told Coates, explaining that this is, after all, a tale of biker outlaws, a world of drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll. Gemma is lost and lonely and comes on to Tig. Tig is lost and lonely and responds. "You're not doing it out of anything with Clay," explained Sutter. "It's just a moment of two very wounded people coming together for some love, for something."

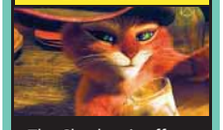
"All I know is that things are happening this year," says Coates. "Stuff is going down."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"All I know is that things are happening this year. Stuff is going down"**
> KIM COATES ON THE UPCOMING SEASON OF SONS OF ANARCHY

2 scene

Box office



The Shrek spinoff Puss in Boots opened with an estimated $34 million to top the box office. The film proved a big draw outside of the Shrek franchise. Paranormal Activity came in the number two spot over the weekend. That film took in $18.5 million in its second week of release. The Rum Diary, starring Johnny Depp, opened weakly, earning just $5 million.

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FX Canada heralds aggressive plans by Rogers to add channels, expand reach

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Time for Avril to Let Go?

Avril Lavigne experiencing dwindling Canadian crowds, sales

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Avril Lavigne arrives on the red carpet during the 2011 MuchMusic Video Awards in Toronto in June.

Midway through a sparsely attended arena gig in Toronto last week, Avril Lavigne paused between songs to express her joy at playing "so close to home," in her "beautiful" native country.

She had just finished singing Alice, and it was the first time in the evening she unleashed the full power of her vocal instrument, allowing her voice to billow and soar into every corner of the Air Canada Centre.

And it couldn't have been easy to fill all that empty space.

See, it's not just the Canadian weather that might have felt chilly to Lavigne, who grew up in Napanee, Ont., but moved to Los Angeles years ago. To hear her tell it, this cross-country trek was a triumphant homecoming, the first since her latest album dropped in March, so where were the adoring crowds to cheer her on?

A reported audience of 6,800 fans showed up to her gig at the Air Canada Centre, which can hold 15,800 fans for a concert. Her shows across the country reported similarly anemic turnouts, while the reviews varied from tepid to scathing — a representative notice from one newspaper compared her lifeless performance to that of a zombie.

And considering that Lavigne's latest — Goodbye Lullaby — has failed to generate a fraction of the interest as her previous disc, there's no shortage of speculation that the pop-punk princess's reign could be coming to an end.

"She's having a difficult time making the transition from being a skater girl to being a 27-year-old woman," said Alan Cross, Metro Canada columnist and host of the syndicated radio show The Secret History of Rock. "It's very tough to grow with your audience. ... The next year is going to be very important if she's going to be able to make the transition.

"I mean, she's far from dead. But it may take a little time for the new Avril to take root."

And at this point, it's not exactly clear who the new Avril is.

She burst onto the scene less than a decade ago with 2002's hit-laden Let Go, providing a so-called edgy alternative to the dolled-up pop strumpets who were shifting the bar of good taste ever-lower and climbing ever-higher on the charts in the process (Lavigne's first album arrived in the one-year period between two video hallmarks for lowest-common-denominator pop pandering: Britney Spears' I'm a Slave 4 U and Christina Aguilera's Dirrty.)

6X

Let Go attained diamond certification in Canada and went six times platinum in the U.S.

A then-17-year-old Lavigne had a stylistic hook (ties and tank-tops), a strong voice and a bundle of super-catchy pop tunes stained by just a speck of punk grime — Ramona imitating the Ramones.

After Let Go, Avril's next two albums — 2004's Under My Skin and 2007's The Best Damn Thing — brought diminishing returns commercially but still went platinum a combined seven times over in Canada.

And that, perhaps, is when Lavigne's career started to slide. There was a lengthy four-year break between albums, during which time Lavigne divorced husband (and Sum 41 frontman) Deryck Whibley and changed her management, switching from Vancouver-based Nettwerk to a representation based closer to home in L.A.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHN CARUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Metallica members James Hetfield, left, and Lars Ulrich, right, pose with musician Lou Reed.

Lou Reed on an album with Metallica: You better believe it

Metallica and the word "scared" don't usually go together.

But fear was one of the emotions that band members felt when they began work on their latest album, Lulu, a collaboration with Lou Reed that will be released tomorrow.

"That was scary, but it was also so exciting to think, 'Is he going to tell us what to play? Are we going to know what to play? Is he going to start singing randomly? Should we figure out some parts?'" lead singer James Hetfield said in an interview. "We have had many different ways of recording, and this is yet another new way for us."

Reed and Metallica, both members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, first performed together at the hall's 25th-anniversary concerts in 2009. They found that they had amazing chemistry together.

That chemistry prompted them to go into the studio together, but the concept for the album started as a work that was the brainchild of Reed, based on the Lulu plays (Earth Spirit and Pandora's Box) written by Frank Wedekind.

Chemistry

▶ Lou Reed has worked with everyone from The Killers to David Bowie, but considers his work with Metallica to be "the best music I have ever done."

"This was the template from God," Reed explained in an interview last week with Hetfield and Lars Ulrich.

"It was written for a play in Berlin, for the Berlin Ensemble Theatre. It was done there as a soundscape surrounded by various electronics. I lifted the whole thing, since it is mine, and brought it over to them and turned them loose on it so that on top of the electronics, (it) became Metallica."

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Titanic's heart goes on... this time in 3D

PARAMOUNT HOME ENTERTAINMENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Audiences fell in love with Jack and Rose — played by Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet.

James Cameron took his "2.99-D" version of Titanic out into open water Friday.

The director of the Oscar-winning 1997 film and producer Jon Landau previewed 18 minutes of assorted footage that has been converted into 3D for next year's rerelease of the film.

The mastermind behind Avatar joked that it wasn't fully 3D because Titanic wasn't filmed in 3D. He was quick to note, though, that most other converted 3D films are just "2.4-D."

"I think it looks spectacular," said Cameron. "If I had 3D cameras at the time and there had been 3D theatres at the time, I certainly would have shot it in 3D. It's also just a way of reinventing the concept of a rerelease and getting people to come back to theatres and commit that three hours and 15 minutes to go through the experience again."

The footage shown during the invite-only presentation at Paramount Studios included eight scenes, spanning from Kate Winslet's well-to-do Rose looking up at the Titanic for the first time to the moment when the stern dramatically plunges into the sea at a 90-degree angle, as well as the iconic scene of Rose and Leonardo DiCaprio's drifter Jack embracing on the bow.

In the scenes previewed Friday, the 3D footage showcased the conversion's visual reinvigoration of the existing material, especially during moments involving depth, such as a car being slowly hoisted onto the deck of the ship or Jack anxiously awaiting Rose at the bottom of a grand staircase amid a series of columns that seemingly jut out of the screen.

Cameron said that DiCaprio and Winslet have yet to see the 3D footage of Titanic, but he has spoken with Winslet about the project, and she is "on board." He hasn't talked to DiCaprio about the rerelease because he's been busy shooting The Great Gatsby in Australia but he hopes to reconnect with the J. Edgar star soon.

"We'd love to have them involved to the extent that I think people are curious about what their journey has been since Titanic," Cameron said. "I think Titanic cast a very long shadow over the careers of two extremely brilliant young actors who had to spend a lot of time kinda reminding people they weren't Jack and Rose over the next few years." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Protecting Lightfoot's legacy?

Rocker Dave Bidini writes book about Gordon Lightfoot without his involvement

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Dave Bidini is the author of Writing Gordon Lightfoot.

As soon as Dave Bidini put the word out that he was writing a book about Gordon Lightfoot, the stories started to pour in.

Bidini, the former Rheostatics singer, has plenty of friends in rock 'n' roll, and they had plenty of tangled yarns to spin about the 72-year-old Canuck singer for Writing Gordon Lightfoot.

Some were flattering, but most were definitely not.

"People would be like: 'I have a great Lightfoot story,' and it would inevitably turn out to be a horrible Lightfoot story," Bidini said in an interview last week at a Toronto café.

"There's a book that could come out for sure that would just be about that, just be about him being a mean drunk and a bad husband ... But if you put too many episodes in a book like that, that's all people are going to take away from it, and I wanted people to come away with a fuller impression of who the person was, about this life lived in Canadian music.

"I wanted people to come away with a fuller impression of who the person was."
AUTHOR DAVE BIDINI

"And actually one of the things I say in the book is I sort of approach Gord and I say: 'I hope you're grateful that it's me writing the book and not some muckraking journalist.'"

That Bidini wanted to protect Lightfoot's legacy — or at least his dignity — might imply some sort of friendly relationship between the two Canadian rockers.

But in fact, Bidini says that Lightfoot refused to be interviewed for the book despite his persistent requests.

In the text, Bidini offers a couple of theories for Lightfoot's non-participation. Years ago, the Rheostatics covered The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, and Bidini and his bandmates thought the Orillia, Ont., country-folk legend might have liked their version.

So they directed it to Lightfoot's manager at the time, Barry Harvey, who has since died. Bidini remembers Harvey telling him that he wouldn't give the song to Lightfoot because it would just annoy the singer. The group was disappointed, and some time later, Bidini slighted Lightfoot in an interview, suggesting that the Canuck icon had swiped the melody for Fitzgerald from an old Irish folk tune (Bidini himself heard this rumour at a pub in Cork, Ireland). Harvey asked for a retraction and Bidini agreed, but says that once the comments had hit the Internet, it was too late.

So, the two artists weren't exactly friends. Still, Bidini believes the primary reason Lightfoot didn't want to participate in the book is that the songwriting stalwart simply has no interest in revisiting the still-tender wounds of his past.

And Writing Gordon Lightfoot does zero in on a particularly difficult period in his career.

The book is structured around the events of one week in July 1972, when some of the biggest names in music — including Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and, yes, Lightfoot — descended on tiny Toronto Island to make surprise appearances at the Mariposa Folk Festival.

At the time, the book says, Lightfoot had been forced to curtail his touring schedule due to Bell's palsy, which had temporarily left his face partially paralyzed, his first marriage was crumbling (he would divorce in '73), and he was dating Cathy Smith — the same woman who would later serve time in a California prison for injecting actor John Belushi with a fatal dose of heroin and cocaine in 1982.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eugenides tired of the autobiographical questions

Superstar author Jeffrey Eugenides is getting weary of questions about whether his new book, The Marriage Plot, is autobiographical.

"It's incredibly fatiguing. It happens with every novel, no matter what you write about," the 51-year-old said during an interview this week.

Eugenides burst onto the scene in 1993 with his acclaimed debut The Virgin Suicides, which was later made into a much-discussed film by Sofia Coppola. His next novel, 2002's Middlesex, vaulted him into the literary stratosphere. A stunningly imaginative and expansive tale about a male hermaphrodite, the book won the Pulitzer Prize, was chosen as an Oprah selection and had legions of readers clamouring to see what the rock-star writer would do next.

They had to wait nine years to find out, but were rewarded this month with Eugenides' latest novel, The Marriage Plot, which follows a love triangle between English major Madeleine and two fellow male students at Brown University (the author's alma mater) in the early 1980s.

In the beleaguered world of publishing, the book's release was a joyous event. A billboard of Eugenides went up in Times Square. A launch party in New York City attracted literary heavyweights Jonathan Franzen, Martin Amis and Zadie Smith.

The Marriage Plot was soon lauded as another highly erudite, yet eminently readable offering from Eugenides. Still, much of the media coverage has been preoccupied with whether it is autobiographical.

Did Eugenides base the character of Mitchell Grammaticus on himself (both are from Detroit and of Greek descent)? Does the Brown setting reflect the author's time at the school? And is the character of manic-depressive biologist Leonard Bankhead based on the late author David Foster Wallace (with whom Eugenides had a passing acquaintance)?

Eugenides, an instructor at Princeton University, can't seem to escape the speculation.

"Last time I wrote about someone who was intersex and I would still get the autobiographical question even though it's obviously about as imaginative a leap as I can make," said the author, who lives in New Jersey with his wife and daughter.

"Now, I'm getting it again. You get it with everything you write. That's how people read. We all do it to a certain extent.

"But people need to understand that you obviously draw from your life in order to write a novel, so there are going to be many things that resemble the writer's experience. But what happens in a novel is very different than what happens in a writer's life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEL EVANS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Author Jeffrey Eugenides poses at his home in Princeton, N.J., in September.

Hurry up and write

- During his media rounds, Eugenides has also faced repeated questions about the extended period of time it takes him to write each book.
- The author says he can usually tell after about 150 pages whether he wants to move forward with a new project.
- The kernel of The Marriage Plot, he said, came about when he was taking a break from Middlesex in the late 1990s and began writing a story about a débutante party. He abandoned that manuscript, but the character of Madeleine stuck with him, eventually jumping into the pages that would become The Marriage Plot.

Nicki Minaj and her maid get into it

▶ Nicki Minaj

Police were called to respond to something of a domestic disturbance after singer Nicki Minaj got in an argument with a housekeeper, according to TMZ.

Minaj had previously fired a maid who worked at her home, then grew upset upon seeing the woman returning to work Friday, insisting she leave.

When the maid said she would not be "treated like an animal," Minaj reportedly flew into a rage, shouting.

"I'll show you how to treat someone like an animal. Get the f— out of my house."

It turns out, however, that it was a different maid and not the one she'd previously let go.

METRO

I'm not gay: Kelly Clarkson

Singer opens up about her sexual orientation and dating on talk show

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kelly Clarkson

Kelly Clarkson is setting the record straight about being straight.

Despite speculation running rampant for years, the singer wants to clarify that she is not a lesbian.

"I'm from a small town, so everyone's married with children or about to have children," she says during a visit to The View.

"That's why people think I'm gay — because they're like, 'why aren't you married?' And I'm like, 'It doesn't happen for everyone right off the bat!'"

Plus, she says she hasn't had the easiest time finding the right guy.

"I've dated some cool guys, but I don't know if I've dated someone where I could spend my whole life with them," Clarkson says. "The last date I went on was horrible, so I'd like to go on a good date."

METRO

PATTINSON A MARRIED MAN?

▶ Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

In honour of Halloween, let's check in with vampire-in-chief Robert Pattinson, shall we?

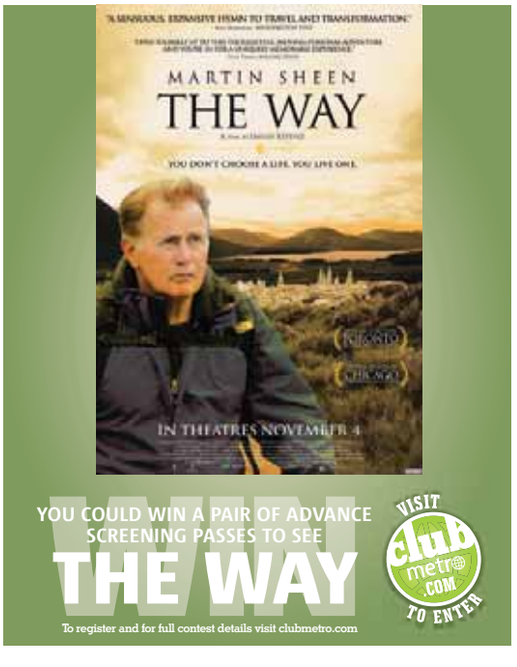
While promoting Breaking Dawn: Part 1 at a press conference over the weekend, Pattinson speculated that he and costar/girlfriend Kristen Stewart may already be married.

"The wedding scene's funny because we used a real priest," the actor said, according to UsMagazine.com.

"So technically we are already married because he did all the things you would do in a normal ceremony. So we don't have a civil union in law, but I guess in the church we are actually married."

We suspect the church wouldn't agree, but then again, it's not really our go-to marriage dictionary these days. If someone united Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt in holy-hell matrimony, no doubt they'd sign off on this one.

TODAY'S THE WORD WAS WRITTEN BY MONICA WEYMOUTH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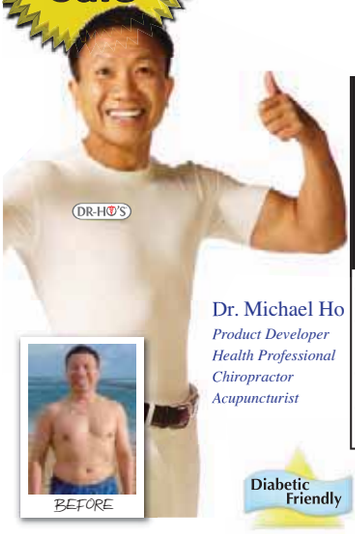

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- Nicole C.

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- Jane A.

3 life

Sweet choices

A British Columbia-based dietitian and author has some helpful hints about the chocolate choices parents will have to make this Halloween.

Gloria Tsang says all parents need to do is look at the list of ingredients on mass-produced chocolate bars. Tsang says if parents don't know how to pronounce the name of an ingredient then that product might not be the best choice. She says parents should also watch out for artificial colours and emulsifiers — additives used in processed foods.

Tsang says while candy isn't good, parents shouldn't get stressed about the holiday, noting Halloween is a time when people should enjoy sweet foods.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will Halloween play a trick on your kids' health? Dental hygiene is key concern.

CHARLIE LITCHFIELD, IDAHO PRESS-TRIBUNE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Dentists and dieticians say you can still make Halloween reasonably healthy for kids without resorting to tactics like no candy.

Keep it sweet but healthy

Candy isn't the only thing kids can accumulate during Halloween ◐ Cavities and extra pounds from all the candy are also common ◐ Try these tricks for preventing health issues

Offer apples to trick-or-treaters and risk having your house get egged — maybe even by your own kids.

But dentists and dietitians say you can still make Halloween reasonably healthy for little devils and witches without resorting to dracul-onian tactics, like no candy.

"This is such a big adventure for them — let them have it, obviously with some caveats," said Dr. Rhea Haugseth, a dentist in Marietta, Ga., who's president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Haugseth also suggests avoiding cavity-promoting treats like caramels that stick to the teeth, or lollipops that bathe teeth in a long sugary bath.

Also, having kids brush their teeth before trick-or-treating to helps reduce plaque and bacteria, which interact with sugar to produce tooth-decaying acid, Haugseth said. Kids should also brush right after eating candy, she said.

Just don't go overboard on restrictions, says Cole Robbins, a Chicago 12-year-old and Halloween veteran. "Halloween is the one day of the year where we kids just kind of break out and overload on candy," he said.

To help prevent that kind of gorging, try to give children a healthy, filling meal before trick-or-treating, says Bethany Thayer, a spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association who works at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit.

Ronni Litz Julien, a Miami nutritionist whose patients include overweight and obese kids, says another trick for parents is to help sort through the loot, have kids select their 10 favourite pieces, and give the rest away. Offer the choice of eating all 10 pieces at once, or over 10 days. That gives them a sense of control, without feeling shortchanged, she said.

"You can't deprive them. It's Halloween, for God's sake," she said.

President Barack Obama joked last week on The Tonight Show that he'd warned his health-promoting wife that the White House would get egged if she gave trick-or-treaters fresh fruit and raisins instead of candy.

Dr. Janet Silverstein, a Gainesville, Fla. pediatrician and member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' nutrition committee, says she doesn't give out candy, offering fruit or pencils instead; so far her house is unscathed.

When her own children were young, Silverstein would buy their candy for a nickel a piece. She recommends that to her patients' parents, too. Though she doesn't offer her other solution — she used to eat her kids' candy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parent tricks

Try these tips for keeping Halloween fun without risking cavities or extra pounds.

- **Dark chocolate**
  Start by handing out dark chocolate instead of chewy candies. The chewy variety is likely to get stuck in teeth and stay there. Some studies have suggested dark chocolate is good for the heart.
- **Toys**
  Try bribing your kids with a new toy in exchange for the Halloween loot — or at least some of it.
- **Wait**
  Ask your kids not to dip into their loot bags until they bring the entire stash home. This trick ensures both safety so you can toss any suspicious-looking candy, but it also prevents an "eating frenzy" — and the stomach aches.

Soy-stainable furniture

Grain farmers showing how soy can be used in different ways **Trying to educate people about their options**

BEN KNIGHT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

▶ Canada is finding new uses for its bountiful grain harvests.

Soy beans. Food, fuel … furniture?

This past weekend, at the International Home Show in Toronto, the Grain Farmers of Ontario presented a special display of furniture and other home decor items — the key ingredient of which is leftover grains.

"We have furniture made from soy-based foam," says Meghan Burke, GFO communications coordinator. "It's called Bio-Plush foam. We also have carpeting made from corn oil, and soy-based paint on the walls. We have a countertop made of corn. Anything you can think of, really, made from corn or soy beans."

The furniture — including big, cushy reclining chairs — still has all the usual wood or metal components. But the foam in the cushions is something altogether new.

"It's very nice and very comfortable," she explains. "What we're basically doing is replacing the petroleum-oil portion with a soy-based oil. So it's just like any other foam, but is has no off-gassing, no allergens, it's renewable, it's decomposable, it's really healthy for your environment."

It's a pure case of need meets opportunity. Agricultural organizations across Canada are always looking for new markets, and there's a rising consumer demand for cleaner, greener products.

"We want to educate people about the options they have for their homes," says Burke. "People are looking for greener, sustainable, healthy options for their homes. And with that trend growing and growing, more companies are picking this up. We have quite a list of suppliers that have given us products for the exhibit."

"We want to educate people about the options they have for their homes."
MEGHAN BURKE, GFO COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

And while the GFO's efforts are primarily an Ontario initiative, building a new market for the province's 28,000 corn, wheat and soy bean farmers, these special grain-based products are gaining in popularity, and becoming available throughout Canada.

"The carpeting you can buy at Home Depot, or anywhere you can buy a carpet. The paint is Sherwyn-Williams. All these things are fairly common at your typical home stores."

The deeper message? Canada's bountiful grain harvests can solve a lot more problems than hunger and fuel efficiency.

"There are opportunities for your home that are environmentally friendly, and they are great alternatives to your petroleum-based products."

For more information, visit gfo.ca and bioplush.com.

EMBRACE GREEN BURIALS

I recently attended a funeral in Cobourg, Ont., where the cemetery conducts natural burials. What exactly makes a burial natural or green? *Tamara of Toronto, ON*

QUEEN OF GREEN

LINDSAY COULTER
GREEN@METRONEWS.CA

When it comes to planning the end, there are greener ways to go.

You visited one of only two cemeteries in Canada with designated green sites; the Union Cemetery in Cobourg, Ont., and Royal Oak Burial Park in Victoria, B.C.

At both, you can return to the Earth naturally with a green burial.

Green burials are low-impact, use less energy, consume fewer resources (like water), are less toxic, and may include local, sustainable materials.

Bodies are not embalmed because that delays decomposition.

Without formaldehyde to preserve the body, toxic chemicals are avoided, reducing harmful exposure both to nature and the em

balmer. Instead, bodies are wrapped in a biodegradable shroud or placed in a biodegradable casket. And protected green space becomes the final resting place. To learn more, check out the Natural Burial Association's website. (naturalburialassoc.ca) Although only two cemeteries can perform green burials in Canada, green funerals are increasing in popularity. A green funeral means funeral homes aim to maximize environmentally friendly funeral practices.

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Crying Over roadblocks is not his way

Former Platinum Blonde rocker Sergio Galli has overcome life's hurdles with a Doesn't Really Matter attitude

Sergio's secrets

Sergio Galli's keys to life and business

- **Success** Enjoy the journey and don't think about the money or the outcome.
- **Idea** Come up with a plan and follow through with it.
- **Attitude** Be positive and move on from disappointments.
- **Execution** Just get out and do it. Be positive.
- **Fun** Enjoy yourself. If you do, success and money will come.

TURNING POINT

TERESA KRUZE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

He's an international rock star, designer, architect and builder. With so much success, you would expect Sergio Galli would wear his accomplishments like a badge of honour. But he doesn't. Sergio is a down to earth, humble man with a simple message for us all: accept life's turning points and when things get tough, move on.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Sergio Galli circa 1984 performing with Platinum Blonde.

"I get over discouragement in life because I know it's temporary. Some people think it's forever. I say, 'Why waste your time? Get over it'."

Sergio was 18 when he started his own business building and renting P.A. systems for bands.

He ran into Mark Holmes who was looking to put together a new band. Sergio played guitar, Mark found a drummer and within six months Galli and the band hit it big. Platinum Blonde went on to become one of the top glam-bands of the '80s.

Hits like Crying Over You and Situation Critical rocketed to the top of the charts.

As Galli and the boys would roll through the great cities of Europe, he would make the limo drivers stop in front of unique buildings that caught his attention.

PROVIDED

▶ These days Sergio is a successful home builder who has recently reunited with his bandmates in hopes of touring next summer.

"I was so into architecture. They used to rib me but they thought it was neat someone could be into something other than music."

Seven years passed and the band realized they were burnt out and needed a break. Galli wanted to go back to school but was turned down at every University he applied to. Sergio "got over it", bought a couple of properties and began building. His work became noticed in the industry and soon he was building multi-million dollar homes. Now he has teamed with The Serena Group to build affordable, luxurious villas. Galli is living life on his terms.

Platinum Blonde recently got back together and decided 20 years was enough of a break. Sergio and Platinum Blonde are currently in the recording studio and are hoping to start touring again next summer.

"You have to enjoy the journey along the way. Nothing happens overnight. Remember to have fun and if you do then success will come."

Rock royalty

History of Platinum Blonde

- **Formed in 1983** Mark Holmes (vocals), Sergio Galli (guitar), Chris Steffler (drums), Kenny MacLean (bass) (1956-2008)
- **Standing in the Dark** (1984) Triple Platinum
  Singles: Doesn't Really Matter
- **Alien Shores** (1985) Quintuple Platinum
  Singles: Situation Critical, Crying Over You, Somebody Somewhere
- **Contact** (1987) Double Platinum
- Inducted into the Music and Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame on March 12, 2010. **SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA**

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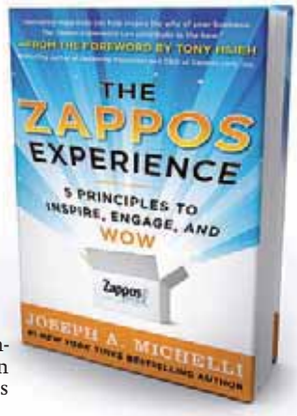
A shoe-in for serious success

BOOK REVIEW

CRAIG LUND
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

The Zappos Experience By Joseph A. Michelli McGraw Hill, $25.00 296 pages



There are very few companies out there that can boast billion dollar sales figures.

Now review that list against companies that have hit that revenue milestone in less than 10 years and you come up with a far shorter list which includes a company called Zappos, the world's friendliest (and biggest) online shoe retailer.

According to Joseph A. Michelli, author of The Zappos Experience, Zappos became a billion dollar company by creating a killer customer service approach and at the same time developed a work culture where "being a little weird is part of the core values" of the company.

Former COO and CFO Alfred Lin comments that the Zappos Experience is "about getting the culture right so we can treat the customer right."

This approach has clearly paid off with the company named by J.D. Powers and Associates as a 2011 Customer Service Champion.

The concept of Zappos was born due to a frustrated consumer. Nick Swinmurn couldn't find a certain size shoe which prompted him to consider if an online strategy could be used to solve this dilemma. From that he created ShoeSite.com. Recognizing the need for capital, Swinmurn approached Tony Hsieh & Alfred Lin of Investment firm Venture Frogs with his idea. Even in the 1999 boom of the Dot Com era one would have questioned the concept. After all, "Who would buy shoes at an Internet Store without trying them on?" alludes Michelli.

Michelli's book looks at the five principles that he found to be the foundation of Zappos' success. He describes them as serving the perfect fit, making business effortlessly swift, personalizing the experience, diversification of product and playing to win. If you're looking at how to assess and improve your customer service approach, The Zappos Experience serves the perfect fit.

CRAIG LUND, IS THE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING SERVICES FIRM MARKETING TALENT INC. AND CAN BE REACHED AT CLUND@MARKETINGTALENTINC.COM OR ON TWITTER @CRAIGLUND

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Tasty treats to make them scream — with sheer delight

Still looking for last minute Halloween treat ideas? Try these Bog Bars

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe serves 16.

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

The beauty of Halloween treats is that you don't have to worry about making them pretty. In fact, the uglier they are, the better. And that was the inspiration for this baked treat.

The Bog Bars start as a basic blondie-like bar studded with dried cherries. Then you smear melted chocolate over the top and start dumping delicious things all over them.

The gummy worms and pretzels are a particularly nice touch, resembling the snakes and twigs one surely encounters during midnight swamp strolls.

Bog Bars Preparation:

1. Coat a 33-x-23-cm (13-x9-inch) pan with cooking spray; set aside. In a microwave-safe dish, combine cherries and juice. Microwave on high until bubbling, about 1 minute. Set aside to cool.
2. In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, scraping bowl between additions. Stir in vanilla. Add flour and salt and mix just until combined. Drain reserved cherries, then add them and half of the broken chocolate cookies.
3. Spoon mixture into prepared pan and bake in 180 C (350 F) oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden and set.
4. While bars are still hot, sprinkle milk chocolate bits over surface. Let melt. Use back of a spoon to spread melted chocolate to cover the surface. Sprinkle with broken graham crackers, marshmallows, pretzels, gummy worms, remaining chocolate cookies and pieces of fruit roll-ups. Let cool.

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) dried cherries
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) apple or orange juice
- 175 ml (3/4 cup or 1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 550 ml (2 1/4 cups) packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla extract
- 550 ml (2 1/4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) salt
- 16 chocolate sandwich cookies, broken into pieces
- 340 g (12 oz) milk chocolate bits
- 2 graham crackers, broken
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) mini marshmallows
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) broken pretzel sticks
- Handful gummy worms
- 2 green fruit roll-ups, torn into pieces

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rose Reisman's Swap It

While Halloween is normally a time for candy, some parents choose other treats such as the Trick or Treat McDonald's Happy Meal. However, the alternative can lead to a scary amount of calories and sodium.

MCDONALD'S CHEESEBURGER WITH SMALL FRIES AND 1% CHOCOLATE MILK (250 ML)

700 CALORIES/ 25 GM FAT/ 8 GM SATURATED FAT/ 1120 MG SODIUM

A MCDONALD'S TREAT MAY COST YOUR CHILD 700 CALORIES AND ALMOST A DAY'S WORTH OF SODIUM. A CHEESEBURGER WITH SMALL FRIES AND CHOCOLATE MILK IS EQUIVALENT TO 30 ITALIAN STYLE MEATBALLS FROM M&M MEATSHOPS IN CALORIES.

SWAP IT!

MCDONALD'S CHEESEBURGER WITH APPLE DIPPERS AND APPLE JUICE (9 OZ.)

480 CALORIES/ 13 GM FAT/ 6 GM SATURATED FAT/ 810 MG SODIUM

MAKE HALLOWEEN HEALTHIER BY SWAPPING FRIES FOR APPLES AND CHOCOLATE MILK FOR JUICE [FOR MORE, VISIT ROSEREISMAN.COM]

The only thing better than a witch's cauldron on Halloween is a sweet witch's cauldron that you can eat

Nothing says dessert like these chocolate and cherry filled mini cauldrons. Be sure to hit the bulk food store for some wacky Halloween candy to fill up this dessert. You'll have kids big and small wanting to help "stir the pot".

Witch's Cauldron Preparation:

1. Prepare patty shells according to package directions. Set aside.
2. Fill each patty shell cauldron with chocolate pudding prepared as per serving directions and cherry pie filling.
3. To make the cauldron handle, take a length of black licorice twist and insert each end into the cauldron. Insert a pretzel for the cauldron spoon.
4. Add your choice of ghoulish worms, brains or any other Halloween candy. For optional eyeballs, plop one or two coated almonds in the cauldron, affixing a mini chocolate chip with frosting.
5. For the base, cut chocolate sippers into short lengths to resemble logs and arrange on a platter or plate. Add some red and orange mini candy-coated chocolates and/or cinnamon hearts to mimic burning embers.
6. Place completed cauldrons on top of the fire and present the devilishly delicious brew to young guests. EMILY RICHARDS/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ TENDERFLAKE

Ingredients:

- 6 frozen patty shells (1 300-g pkg)
- 1 pkg (113 g) instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 can (540 ml/19 oz) cherry pie filling (625 ml/2 1/2 cups)
- 6 black 12-cm (5-inch) licorice twists
- 6 thin pretzel sticks
- Gummies, including worms, brains and frogs
- 6 to 8 yogurt-coated almonds
- 10 chocolate sippers
- Mini candy-coated chocolates (separate red and orange)
- Cinnamon hearts
- Small amount vanilla frosting (for optional eyeball)
- Mini chocolate chips (for optional eyeball)

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes six servings.

RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Buffalo's Ryan Fitzpatrick throws against Washington at Rogers Centre yesterday.

Fitzpatrick leads Bills to victory in Toronto

23	0
BILLS	REDSKINS

Ryan Fitzpatrick showed yesterday why the Buffalo Bills felt he was worth $59 million US.

Fitzpatrick threw two TD strikes to Scott Chandler as Buffalo beat the Washington Redskins 23-0 for its first regular-season win of the Bills Toronto Series.

The resurgent Bills (5-2) improved to 3-3 in Toronto but are just 1-3 in regular-season contests.

Buffalo hasn't made the NFL playoffs since 1999 but last week signed Fitzpatrick to a $59-million, six-year contract extension. The deal includes $24 million guaranteed and makes Fitzpatrick the highest-paid player in club history.

Not bad for a Harvard grad and '05 seventh-round pick who spent his first four NFL seasons with St. Louis and Cincinnati before landing in Buffalo in 2009. Fitzpatrick, 28, has flourished with the Bills, going 9-5 in his last 14 games.

Yesterday's contest was the sixth of eight Buffalo will play here through next season as part of the series. The attendance was 51,579, meaning none of the games have been a sellout at Rogers Centre, which seats 54,000 for football.

For the first time in the series fans were vocally pro Bills, actually giving Buffalo the feel of home-field advantage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs latest casualty of Senators' hot streak

- MacArthur's pair not enough for Toronto in battle of provincial rivals
- Power-play goals from Ottawa's Neil and Greening pace young club's win

JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Leafs Jonas Gustavsson, from left, and Dion Phaneuf battle for position with Senators Chris Neil and Nick Foligno in Ottawa last night.

3	2
SENATORS	LEAFS

Kaspars Daugavins' first career goal stood as the winner as the Ottawa Senators won their sixth straight game, 3-2 over the rival Toronto Maple Leafs last night.

Colin Greening and Chris Neil added power-play goals for the Senators (7-5-0).

Robin Lehner made his first start of the year after being called up from Binghamton of the American Hockey League earlier in the weekend and made 23 saves.

Clarke MacArthur scored both goals for the Maple Leafs (7-3-1), the first coming on the power play. Mikhail Grabovski and Nikolai Kulemin provided the assists both times.

Jonas Gustavsson made 27 saves in taking the loss.

The Senators beat the Maple Leafs for the first time this season following a 6-5 loss in Toronto earlier this year.

6
The Senators six game winning streak is the team's longest since April 2010.

Heading into the third period with a 2-1 lead, Senators forward Zach Smith stole the puck from Matthew Lombardi just inside the Leafs line and dished it off to Daugavins, who scored with a long shot that beat Gustavsson at 7:08.

MacArthur responded less than two minutes later to pull the Leafs to within a goal. Shortly after the Leafs went on a power play as Daugavins was called for hooking, but they failed on that opportunity and couldn't beat Lehner the rest of the way.

MacArthur opened the scoring 11 minutes into the first period as Senators defenceman Erik Karlsson sat in the penalty box for slashing.

Greening tied the game a little less than five minutes later on the power play, as the first period ended in a 1-1 tie.

Neil tipped a point shot from Karlsson past Gustavsson, again on the power play, for the only goal of the second period.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"We got really close, just couldn't get that final out. This is going to be something that is going to sit with us for a little bit."

MICHAEL YOUNG, THE TEXAS RANGERS' LONGEST-TENURED PLAYER. AS THEY CLEARED OUT THEIR CLUBHOUSE ON SATURDAY, THE RANGERS WERE STILL COMING TO TERMS WITH HOW THEY LOST TO THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS IN THE WORLD SERIES.

Scan code for more sports.

Sports in pictures

PHOTOS
1. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS
2. LEON HALIP/GETTY IMAGES
3. GEOFF BURKE/GETTY IMAGES

1 Drew Tate improved to 2-0 as a starter as the Calgary Stampeders downed the Montreal Alouettes 32-27 to move into a three-way tie for first place in the CFL West Division.

2 The Yankees have made a contract offer to ace CC Sabathia, who has until today to decide whether to opt out of the $92 million and four years remaining on his current deal.

3 Tony Stewart passed Jimmie Johnson on a restart with three laps to go yesterday and surged into contention for his third NASCAR Sprint Cup championship with three races left.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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- Study starts on Monday, November 07, 2011 – 2 sessions with 1 short return visit per session.
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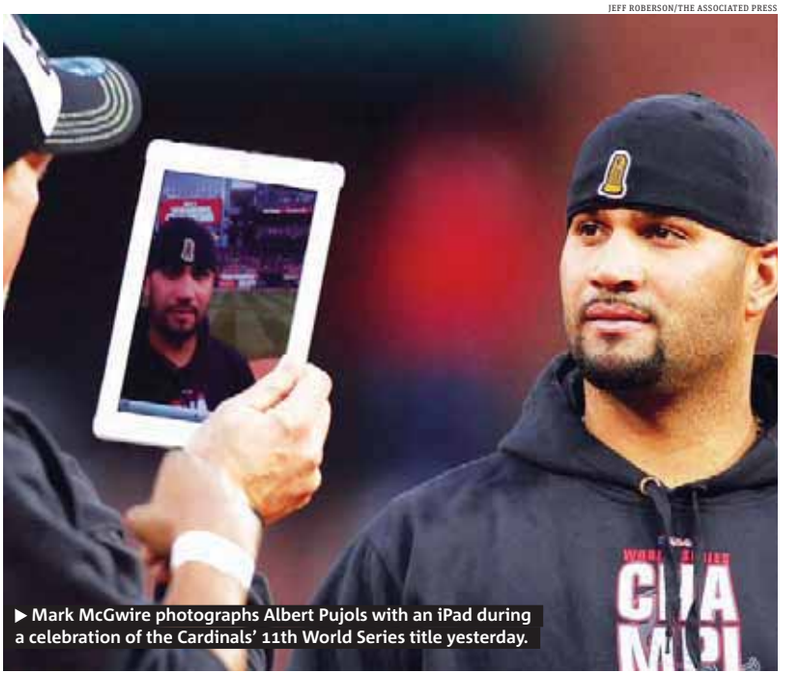

▶ Mark McGwire photographs Albert Pujols with an iPad during a celebration of the Cardinals' 11th World Series title yesterday.

Pujols' fate hangs over celebration

Hundreds of thousands turn out in St. Louis to honour Cardinals' 11th championship

A red sea of fans jammed downtown St. Louis yesterday to honour the World Series champion Cardinals and send a clear message to Albert Pujols: Please stay.

An official crowd estimate was not immediately available for the parade down the streets of St. Louis and the celebration at Busch Stadium, but city officials expected several hundred thousand, and it was clearly that, if not more. The crowd was so large that people were parking more than three kilometres away, and interstate highways were jammed near downtown.

Pujols drew loud cheers along the parade route and a long standing ovation at the stadium. When asked on the podium if he'd like to be back for another celebration next season, he smiled sheepishly and said, "Hey, why not?"

Whether that happens remains to be seen. After 11 Hall of Fame seasons as a Cardinal, Pujols is a free agent for the first time and it isn't clear if the mid-market Cardinals will be able or willing to give a long-term contract to a player who turns 32 before next season, despite his career .328 average, 455 homers and status as a team icon.

"It's one of the greatest World Series runs of all time."
CHRIS AMBROSE, CARDINALS FAN

Pujols' pending free agency and a chilly, breezy and overcast afternoon did nothing to dampen the celebratory spirit. People began staking out the good spots many hours before the parade, climbed trees and leaned out office windows for better views. Nearly everyone was dressed in red except for a few in Rams blue who made the short walk from the Edward Jones Dome after the football game. Even the Rams added to the joy of the day, beating New Orleans 31-21 for their first win after an 0-6 start.

High school marching bands played along the parade route. Vendors sold hot dogs and peanuts. Fathers and mothers hoisted small children on their shoulders to wave at the passing red and white pickup trucks carrying Cardinals past — Lou Brock, Red Schoendienst — and present. The biggest cheers appeared to be for Pujols, Lance Berkman, Yadier Molina, Chris Carpenter and post-season hero David Freese, who was Most Valuable Player in both the NL championship series and the World Series.

Freese, a native of St. Louis County, recalled sitting in a California Burger King in December 2007 when "I got the greatest phone call of my life, that I had been traded to the St. Louis Cardinals."

Manager Tony La Russa led the parade atop a beer wagon pulled by the Budweiser Clydesdales, followed by a truck carrying owner Bill DeWitt Jr. clinging to the World Series trophy.

The parade ended inside Busch Stadium, where a sold-out crowd watched the celebration. In fact, the ballpark rally sold out in 90 minutes after the Cardinals won the clincher.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	13	8	3	1	1	39	28	18	4-1-1-0	4-2-0-1	6-3-1-0	L1
d-Toronto	10	7	2	1	0	34	32	15	5-0-1-0	2-2-0-0	7-2-1-0	W2
d-Washington	9	7	2	0	0	35	23	14	5-0-0-0	2-2-0-0	7-2-0-0	L2
Philadelphia	11	6	4	1	0	43	36	13	3-3-1-0	3-1-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
Buffalo	10	6	4	0	0	29	22	12	2-3-0-0	4-1-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Florida	10	6	4	0	0	26	25	12	2-1-0-0	4-3-0-0	6-4-0-0	W1
Ottawa	11	6	5	0	0	36	43	12	4-2-0-0	2-3-0-0	6-4-0-0	W5
Tampa Bay	11	5	4	0	2	33	35	12	3-1-0-0	2-3-0-2	4-4-0-2	W1
Carolina	11	4	4	2	1	28	35	11	2-1-0-1	2-3-2-0	4-3-2-1	L1
Montreal	11	4	5	1	1	29	30	10	2-3-1-1	2-2-0-0	4-4-1-1	W1
New Jersey	9	4	4	0	1	20	24	9	2-1-0-1	2-3-0-0	4-4-0-1	L2
NY Rangers	9	3	3	1	2	20	22	9	0-1-0-1	3-2-1-1	3-3-1-2	L2
NY Islanders	9	3	4	1	1	18	23	8	3-2-1-0	0-2-0-1	3-4-1-1	L5
Winnipeg	10	3	6	0	1	26	36	7	2-2-0-0	1-4-0-1	3-6-0-1	L1
Boston	10	3	7	0	0	22	25	6	2-5-0-0	1-2-0-0	3-7-0-0	L3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Dallas	11	8	3	0	0	28	23	16	5-1-0-0	3-2-0-0	7-3-0-0	W1
d-Chicago	10	6	2	0	2	32	25	14	4-0-0-2	2-2-0-0	6-2-0-2	W1
d-Edmonton	10	6	2	0	2	21	16	14	4-1-0-1	2-1-0-1	6-2-0-2	W4
Los Angeles	10	6	2	1	1	24	19	14	3-2-0-0	3-0-1-1	6-2-1-1	L1
San Jose	9	6	3	0	0	28	21	12	1-2-0-0	5-1-0-0	6-3-0-0	W5
Colorado	10	6	4	0	0	29	27	12	0-3-0-0	6-1-0-0	6-4-0-0	L2
Phoenix	10	5	3	0	2	30	30	12	3-2-0-1	2-1-0-1	5-3-0-2	W2
Nashville	10	5	4	0	1	24	26	11	2-2-0-1	3-2-0-0	5-4-0-1	W2
Anaheim	10	5	4	0	1	21	26	11	3-2-0-0	2-2-0-1	5-4-0-1	L1
Minnesota	10	4	3	2	1	21	23	11	3-2-1-0	1-1-1-1	4-3-2-1	W1
Vancouver	11	5	5	0	1	31	33	11	3-2-0-1	2-3-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Detroit	9	5	4	0	0	22	23	10	3-1-0-0	2-3-0-0	5-4-0-0	L4
St. Louis	10	5	5	0	0	26	27	10	2-1-0-0	3-4-0-0	5-5-0-0	L1
Calgary	9	4	4	1	0	22	23	9	3-2-1-0	1-2-0-0	4-4-1-0	W2
Columbus	11	1	9	0	1	25	39	3	1-3-0-1	0-6-0-0	1-8-0-1	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Anaheim at Columbus
Toronto at Ottawa
St. Louis at Edmonton
Los Angeles at Colorado
Saturday's results
Montreal 4 Boston 2
Ottawa 5 N.Y. Rangers 4 (SO)
Tampa Bay 1 Winnipeg 0
Toronto 4 Pittsburgh 3
Vancouver 7 Washington 4
Chicago 5 Columbus 2
Dallas 3 New Jersey 1
Florida 3 Buffalo 2
Minnesota 1 Detroit 0
Nashville 3 Anaheim 0
Philadelphia 5 Carolina 1
Phoenix 3 Los Angeles 2 (OT)
San Jose 3 N.Y. Islanders 2 (OT)
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
San Jose at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Wednesday's games
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

MAPLE LEAFS 4, PENGUINS 3

First Period
1. Toronto, Grabovski 4 (Phaneuf, MacArthur) 11:31 (pp)
Penalties — Dupuis Tor (boarding) 6:55, Malkin Pgh (holding) 11:16.
Second Period
2. Pittsburgh, Cooke 4 (Asham, Lovejoy) 10:21
3. Toronto, Connolly 1 (Lupul, Kessel) 11:30 (pp)
4. Pittsburgh, Kunitz 4 (Malkin, Letang) 15:06 (pp)
Penalties — Malkin Pgh (hooking) 11:17, Lombardi Tor (hooking) 13:18.
Third Period
5. Toronto, MacArthur 2 (Phaneuf, Grabovski) 3:08
6. Pittsburgh, Malkin 2 (Letang, Neal) 7:59 (pp)
7. Toronto, Kessel 10 (Connolly, Komisarek) 10:08
Penalties — Steckel Tor (delay of game) 6:06, Dupuis Tor (hooking) 7:06, Sullivan Pgh (slashing), Phaneuf Tor (roughing) 15:10.
Shots

Pittsburgh	6	12	18	36
Toronto	12	9	8	29

Goal — Pittsburgh: Johnson (L,1-1-2) Toronto: Gustavsson (W,3-2-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Pittsburgh: 2-4 Toronto: 2-2.
Referees — Chris Lee, Wes McCauley. **Linesmen** — Scoott Driscoll, Mike Shewchyk.
Attendance — 19,526 (18,819).

CANADIENS 4, BRUINS 2

First Period
1. Montreal, Gionta 2 (Cammalleri, Plekanec) 15:26 (pp)
2. Montreal, Eller 1 (Moen, Kostitsyn) 16:42
Penalties — Boychuk Bos (holding) 14:11, Ference Bos (kneeing) 19:49.
Second Period
3. Montreal, Desharnais 2 (Cammalleri, Weber) 12:24 (pp)
4. Boston, Lucic 3 (Horton) 16:28
Penalties — Thornton Bos, Moen Mtl (fighting) 7:45, Seidenberg Bos (holding) 8:41, Ference Bos (roughing) 10:25, Lucic Bos (slashing) 18:51.
Third Period
5. Boston, Seguin 4 (Chara) 19:05
6. Montreal, Plekanec 4, 19:48 (en)
Penalties — Eller Mtl (tripping) 1:05, Gionta Mtl (tripping) 2:09, Horton Bos (cross-checking) 3:38, Caron Bos (high-sticking) 20:00.
Shots

Boston	8	8	12	28
Montreal	12	12	3	27

Goal — Boston: Rask (L,0-3-0); Montreal: Price (W,4-4-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Boston: 0-2. Montreal: 2-6.
Referees — Dave Jackson, Justin St-Pierre.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Pierre Champoux.
Attendance — 21,273 (21,273).

LIGHTNING 1, JETS 0

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Moore TB (goaltender interference) 9:59, Enstrom Wpg (tripping) 17:42.
Second Period
1. Tampa Bay, Lecavalier 5 (Stamkos, Brewer) 19:20 (pp)
Penalties — Glass Wpg (roughing) 2:14, Glass Wpg (high-sticking) 8:46, Kubina TB (interference) 14:48, Stuart Wpg (holding) 18:54.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shots

Winnipeg	10	7	11	28
Tampa Bay	11	13	3	27

Goal — Winnipeg: Pavelec (L,2-4-1); Tampa Bay: Roloson (W,2-2-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Winnipeg: 0-2; Tampa Bay: 1-4.
Referees — Tom Kowal, Francois St. Laurent.
Linesmen — Brad Kovachik, Pierre Racicot.
Attendance — 19,204 (19,204).

CANUCKS 7, CAPITALS 4

First Period
1. Vancouver, Lapierre 2 (Weise, Bieksa) 3:31
2. Washington, Ovechkin 4 (Brouwer, Backstrom) 8:55
3. Vancouver, Higgins 4 (Hamhuis, Booth) 13:17 (pp)
4. Vancouver, Edler 1 (Salo, Kesler) 19:56 (pp)
Penalties — Sulzer Vcr (high-sticking) 5:55, Ward Wash (high-sticking) 11:27, Semin Wash (hooking) 15:49, Kesler Vcr (hooking) 16:42, Halpern Wash (tripping) 19:51.
Second Period
5. Washington, Ovechkin 5 (Backstrom, Carlson) 1:25 (pp)
6. Washington, Knuble 2, 5:07 (penalty shot)
7. Vancouver, Edler 2 (H. Sedin, D. Sedin) 8:00
8. Washington, Johansson 5 (Wideman) 17:54
Penalties — Hamhuis Vcr (slashing) 0:26, Brouwer Wash (delay-of-game) 11:08.
Third Period
9. Vancouver, H.Sedin 4 (Edler, Kesler) 6:18
10. Vancouver, Higgins 5 (Hansen, Malhotra) 6:52
11. Vancouver, Lapierre 3 (Bieksa, Hamhuis) 10:25
Penalties — Ovechkin Wash (interference) 4:15, Salo Vcr (holding) 8:17.
Shots

Washington	9	13	10	32
Vancouver	17	14	12	43

Goal (shots-saves) — Washington: Vokoun (17-14), Neuvirth (L,1-1-0) (0:00 second, 26-22); Vancouver: Luongo (W,3-3-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Washington: 1-4; Vancouver: 2-5.
Referees — Kevin Pollock, Kyle Rehman. **Linesmen** — Lonnie Cameron, Brad Lazarowich.
Attendance — 18,860 (18,860).

NFL

WEEK EIGHT

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	211	147
New England	5	2	0	.714	202	160
N.Y. Jets	4	3	0	.571	172	152
Miami	0	7	0	.000	107	166

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	5	3	0	.625	206	145
Tennessee	4	3	0	.571	139	145
Jacksonville	2	6	0	.250	98	163
Indianapolis	0	8	0	.000	121	252

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750	176	139
Cincinnati	5	2	0	.714	171	123
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	185	110
Cleveland	3	4	0	.429	107	140

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Diego	4	2	0	.667	141	136
Oakland	4	3	0	.571	160	178
Kansas City	3	3	0	.500	105	150
Denver	2	5	0	.286	133	200

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	174	164
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	149	128
Washington	3	4	0	.429	116	139
Philadelphia	2	4	0	.333	145	145

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	5	3	0	.625	260	189
Tampa Bay	4	3	0	.571	131	169
Atlanta	4	3	0	.571	158	163
Carolina	2	6	0	.250	187	207

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	7	0	0	1.000	230	141
Detroit	6	2	0	.750	239	147
Chicago	4	3	0	.571	170	150
Minnesota	2	6	0	.250	172	199

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	6	1	0	.857	187	107
Seattle	2	5	0	.286	109	162
St. Louis	1	6	0	.143	87	192
Arizona	1	6	0	.143	143	183

Byes: Atlanta, Chicago, Green Bay, N.Y. Jets, Oakland, Tampa Bay
Yesterday's results
Tennessee 27 Indianapolis 10
St. Louis 31 New Orleans 21
Houston 24 Jacksonville 14
N.Y. Giants 20 Miami 17
Minnesota 24 Carolina 21
Baltimore 30 Arizona 27
Detroit 45 Denver 10
Buffalo 23 Washington 0
San Francisco 20 Cleveland 10
Cincinnati 34 Seattle 12
Pittsburgh 25 New England 17
Dallas at Philadelphia
Tonight's game
All Times Eastern
San Diego at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
x-Winnipeg	17	10	7	0	408	402	20
x-Montreal	17	10	7	0	514	425	20
x-Hamilton	17	8	9	0	465	445	16
Toronto	17	5	12	0	364	482	10

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
x-B.C.	17	10	7	0	468	384	20
x-Edmonton	17	10	7	0	404	381	20
x-Calgary	17	10	7	0	481	452	20
Saskatchewan	17	5	12	0	326	459	10

x — clinched playoff berth.
WEEK 18
Yesterday's result
Calgary 32 Montreal 27
Saturday's results
B.C. 29 Edmonton 20
Saskatchewan 19 Hamilton 3
Friday's result
Toronto 27 Winnipeg 22

STAMPEDERS 32, ALOUETTES 27

First Quarter
Cal — TD Forzani 32 pass from Tate (Paredes convert) 3:15
Mtl — TD Whitaker 7 run (Whyte convert) 6:21
Cal — TD Cornish 1 run (Paredes convert) 8:03
Second Quarter
Mtl — TD McPherson 1 run (Whyte convert) 13:01
Cal — Single Dales 75 14:00
Third Quarter
Cal — TD Cornish 1 run (Paredes convert) 9:26
Mtl — TD Brouillette 72 run (Whyte convert) 14:24
Fourth Quarter
Cal — TD Forzani 18 pass from Tate (Paredes convert) 4:11
Mtl — TD Deslauriers 31 pass from Calvillo (two-point convert failed) 13:04
Cal — FG Paredes 41 14:02

Calgary	**14**	**1**	**7**	**10**	**32**
Montreal	**7**	**7**	**7**	**6**	**27**

Attendance — 24,051 at Montreal.
TEAM STATISTICS

	Cal	Mtl
First downs	28	24
Yards rushing	151	160
Yards passing	333	380
Total offence	484	540
Team losses	4	2
Net offence	480	538
Passes made-tried	25-36	24-43
Return yards	123	197
Intercepts-yards by	0-0	2-22
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-60
Sacks by	1	0
Punts-average	6-50.5	8-38.0
Penalties-yards	5-45	9-92
Time of possession	30:43	29:17

Net offence is yards passing, plus yards rushing, minus team losses such as yards lost on broken plays.
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Cal — Cornish 15-71, Talley 2-31, Tate 2-28, Taylor 1-17, Burris 2-2, Reynolds 1-2; Mtl — Brouillette 1-72, Whitaker 16-69, Calvillo 3-17, McPherson 2-2.
Receiving: Cal — Forzani 6-108, Cote 2-57, Bryant 3-50, Lewis 3-44, Talley 3-29, Arthur 3-17, Franklin 1-15, Cornish 3-7, Reynolds 1-6; Mtl — Richardson 5-111, Green 6-86, Bratton 3-46, Carter 3-43, Deslauriers 1-31, Watkins 2-30, Whitaker 3-20, London 1-13.
Passing: Cal — Tate 25-36, 333 yards, 2 TDs, 2 ints; Mtl — Calvillo 24-43-380-1-0.

TENNIS

WTA BNP PARIBAS CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Istanbul
Singles — Championship
Petra Kvitova (3), Czech Republic, def. Victoria Azarenka (4), Belarus, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.
Doubles — Championship
Liezel Huber and Lisa Raymond (2), U.S., def. Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Katarina Srebotnik (1), Slovenia, 6-4, 6-4.

ATP ERSTE BANK OPEN

At Vienna
Singles — Championship
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (1), France, def. Juan Martin del Potro (2), Argentina, def. 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4.
Doubles — Championship
Bob and Mike Bryan (1), U.S., def. Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and **Daniel Nestor (2), Toronto**, 7-6 (10), 6-3.

ATP ST. PETERSBURG OPEN

At St. Petersburg, Russia
Singles — Championship
Marin Cilic (4), Croatia, def. Janko Tipsarevic (2), Serbia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.
Doubles — Championship
Colin Fleming and Ross Hutchins (3), Britain, def. Mikhail Elgin and Alexander Kudryavtsev, Russia, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 10-8 (tiebreak).

GOLF

PGA SHANGHAI MASTERS

At Shanghai
Par 72 — Final Round
(x-won on first hole of a playoff)

x-Rory McIlroy, $2 million	64-69-65-72—270
Anthony Kim, $750,000	68-68-65-69—270
Noh Seung-yul, $267,500	72-63-67-73—275
Hunter Mahan, $267,500	65-72-68-70—275
Lee Westwood,	69-70-70-67—276
Ian Poulter, $150,000	67-71-67-72—277
Retief Goosen, $107,500	69-71-72-68—280
K.J. Choi, $107,500	73-70-70-67—280
Y.E. Yang, $81,833	69-73-68-72—282
Padraig Harrington, $81,833	67-70-73-72—282
John Daly, $81,833	69-70-72-71—282
Geoff Ogilvy, $69,000	73-70-66-74—283
Keegan Bradley, $69,000	72-68-72-71—283

SOCCER

MLS PLAYOFFS

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

SEMIFINALS
Sporting Kansas City vs. Colorado
Last night's result
Sporting Kansas City at Colorado
Wednesday's game
Colorado at Sporting Kansas City, 7 p.m.
Houston vs. Philadelphia
Yesterday's result
Houston 2 Philadelphia 1
Thursday's game
Philadelphia at Houston, 8:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SEMIFINALS
Los Angeles vs. New York
Yesterday's result
Los Angeles 1 New York 0
Thursday's game
New York at Los Angeles, 11 p.m.
Seattle vs. Real Salt Lake
Saturday's result
Real Salt Lake 3 Seattle 0
Wednesday's game
Real Salt Lake at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Rams play like champs

With World Series-winning Cardinals in the house in St. Louis, Jackson scores twice to lead his team to its first win of the season

RAMS	SAINTS
31	21

Nothing in the St. Louis Rams' first six games indicated they could even keep this one close.

Maybe the Cardinals' pre-game appearance with the World Series trophy inspired them to pull off a shocker of their own. A few choice words from their star player helped, too.

Steven Jackson awoke in the middle of the night on game day, deciding he'd tell teammates enough was enough and that no way the Rams were this awful. Then he scored two touchdowns, helping St. Louis to a 31-21 upset over the New Orleans Saints yesterday.

"I think the Cardinals being here was great for the city," Jackson said. "Whoever showed up today, regardless if the place was empty, today was the day."

Drew Brees's only TD pass was in the final seconds. Brees was intercepted twice with Darian Stewart's pick and 27-yard return putting the game away with 2:51 to go.

"As you look at the cardinal sins of football, we committed quite a few of those today," Brees said, no pun intended.

The Saints (5-3) never got on track against a defence ranked near the bottom of the league. The Rams (1-6) had a season-high six sacks after entering the game with just 11.

"We always thought we had that in us," coach Steve Spagnuolo said. "It was a wonderful weekend for St. Louis fans."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DILIP VISHWANAT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rams running back Steven Jackson hurdles Tracy Porter and Scott Shanle of the Saints yesterday in St. Louis.

NFL in pictures

PHOTOS
1.NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES
2.DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES
3. JONATHAN FERREY/GETTY IMAGES
4. ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

1 The New York Giants barely avoided a post-bye letdown, keeping Miami winless with a 20-17 victory.

2 The Detroit Lions sacked Tim Tebow seven times as they snapped a two-game skid with a 45-10 win over the Denver Broncos.

3 Rookie quarterback Andy Dalton threw two first-half touchdown passes as Cincinnati Bengals beat the Seattle Seahawks 34-12.

4 The Baltimore Ravens rallied from a 21-point deficit to beat the Arizona Cardinals 30-27. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pan Am gold gives Spencer fuel for London

Canadian flag-bearer says win helps 'keep that fire lit,' for Olympics

Mary Spencer made history by claiming the first women's boxing gold medal at the Pan American Games, and then was given the honour of carrying Canada's flag in the closing ceremonies.

But the boxer from Windsor said that rather than celebrate her performance in Mexico, she hopes to harness the energy she's gained from these Games to help her prepare for the London Olympics, where she'll be a favourite to win gold when women's boxing makes its debut.

"It's a huge boost," Spencer said, hours before taking the flag for last night's closing ceremonies in Guadalajara. "I still have that same goal, but every time you get to represent your country for whatever you're doing, it just makes you that much more excited."

The 26-year-old Spencer is a three-time world champion and won gold at these Games in the women's 75-kilogram boxing with a 15-11 victory over Yenebier Guillen of the Dominican Republic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Mary Spencer

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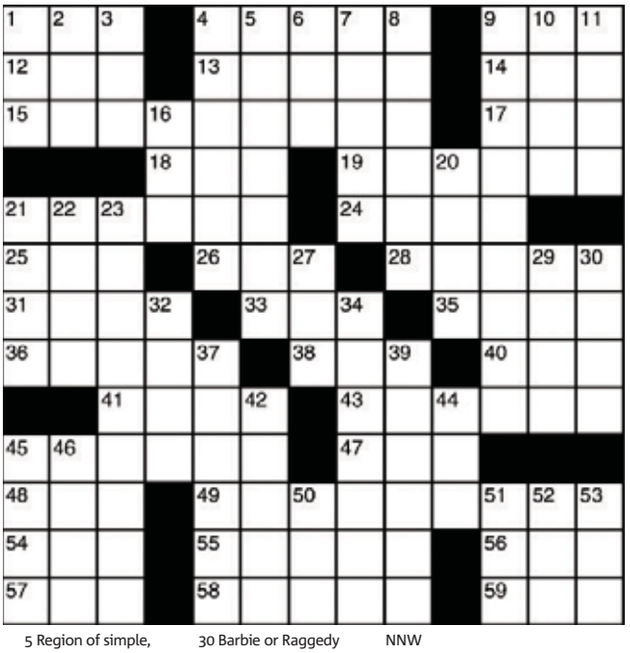

Across
1 That guy
4 Actor Malcolm- — Warner
9 Throng
12 Historic time
13 Give a speech
14 Lawyers' org.
15 Mexican street musicians
17 Deteriorate
18 "CSI" evidence
19 Easter bouquet
21 Insist on
24 Racetrack tipster
25 Greek H
26 Pick a target
28 Water nymph
31 The Red Planet
33 Curved line
35 Knob on a shield
36 Of a pelvic bone
38 Weep loudly
40 Right angle
41 Guitarist Lofgren
43 Tidbit
45 Slanted typeface
47 — choy
48 Wicked
49 Showy yellow flowers
54 Anger
55 Buckwheat pancakes
56 "Of course"
57 "Mayday!"
58 Marsh plant
59 Ram's mate

Down
1 Height of fashion?
2 Gershwin brother
3 Scratch
4 "AbFab" actress Lumley
5 Region of simple, quiet pleasure
6 — -jongg
7 Cockeyed
8 Injury
9 Eastern Canadian provinces
10 Reed instrument
11 Dugout supply
16 Greek mountain
20 Waikiki wingding
21 Actress Moore
22 And others (Lat.)
23 Tenderizing sauces
27 "— Doubtfire"
29 Competent
30 Barbie or Raggedy Ann
32 Take to the seas
34 Barbershop treatment
37 Goes up
39 Dance to rock music
42 Weighing device
44 Old theater letters
45 Wading bird
46 Poi base
50 Disencumber
51 Caustic solution
52 Morning moisture
53 Away from NNW

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	R	O		S	P	A		D	O	F	F	S
L	A	X		A	L	P		E	R	O	D	E
E	B	B		C	A	R	I	B	B	E	A	N
A	B	O		K	N	E	L	T				
K	I	W	I		E	S	S		G	E	A	R
			V	E	T		A	G	E	N	D	A
A	C	T	O	R				A	R	S	O	N
L	A	U	R	E	L		I	S	M			
E	D	G	Y		I	O	N		S	O	U	R
				A	M	P	L	E		P	T	A
C	A	R	O	B	B	E	A	N		I	T	S
P	R	O	W	L		R	I	D		N	E	T
A	M	B	L	E		A	D	S		E	R	A

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

1					8		2	
			5	3			6	
	5		7					4
	8	9		1				
3			6		7			5
				5		9	1	
2					9		4	
	3			7	5			
	9		3					6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	9	2	7	1	6	8	4	3
8	4	1	2	3	5	6	9	7
3	7	6	8	9	4	1	5	2
4	6	7	9	8	2	5	3	1
1	8	9	5	7	3	4	2	6
2	5	3	4	6	1	9	7	8
6	1	4	3	5	7	2	8	9
7	2	8	6	4	9	3	1	5
9	3	5	1	2	8	7	6	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Tannis
You have been a wonderful girlfriend, who I can always trust and rely on. I am not perfect but as you know I am working on improving myself. You are more than what I want in my life. So here is the kiss for you to say thank you for everything. Sorry if I upset in the past, but you must know that I love you with all my heart and soul. You are the only one for me. Keep loving me sweetie.
FROM JAMES

Dear Gemini Gal
I love your blond hair, killer smile and beautiful blue eyes. The other day I saw you with a chimp in zoo. Obviously you love animals, good for you. If you are free and want to go for a drink, fire me a kiss.:):)
FROM I AM INTO YOU

Today
10°/5° Partly sunny
Tuesday
11°/4° Variable
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Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You may not want to go above a colleague's head and appeal to a higher authority today but you have no choice in the matter.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you need a helping hand as the new week begins don't be embarrassed to ask.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 No one expects you to do it all, so don't expect it of yourself.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Cancer is a cardinal sign and that means you were born to achieve.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 People will respond to you better this week of you can make them believe that by helping you they will also in some way be helping themselves.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Never give up hope. Never believe that you are destined to fail.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 There may be a small but important detail that you have overlooked and only a fresh pair of eyes can see it.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Not even a Scorpio can win every time.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Resist the temptation to jump to conclusions and make accusations that you may not be able to back up with facts.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will be thrust into the spotlight at some point today and it may not be an entirely enjoyable experience.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 It may be the case that someone you thought was a friend has been using you to get ahead in their career, but don't make an issue of it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You may have to bend the truth a little today, especially if there is money at stake. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

PATRICK SEMANSKY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALPH ORLOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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